

AT A MEETING of the CULTURE, COMMUNITIES AND RURAL AFFAIRS  
SELECT COMMITTEE of the COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle,  
Winchester on Thursday, 11 July 2013.

**PRESENT**

Chairman:  
p Councillor Elaine Still

Vice-Chairman:  
p Councillor Frank Pearce

**Councillors:**

p Phil Bailey	p Fiona Mather
p Peter Chegwyn	p Patricia Stallard
p Shaun Cully	p Alan Rice
p Brian Gurden	a Tim Rolt
p Rob Humby	a John Wall
p Mark Kemp-Gee	p Chris Wood

**At the invitation of the Chairman:**

p Councillor Keith Chapman – Executive Member for Culture, Recreation  
and Countryside

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Rolt and Wall.

2. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter considered at the meeting they must declare that interest at the time of the relevant debate and, having regard to the circumstances described in Part 3 Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Non-Pecuniary interest in a matter being considered at the meeting they considered whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 2 of the Code, considered whether it was appropriate to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed, save for exercising

Items to be  
actioned on  
the  
Committee's  
work  
programme:

any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

Councillor Humby declared a personal interest in Items 3, 8, 9 and 10 below as the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Economic Development at Winchester City Council. Councillor Humby spoke and voted thereon.

3. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Committee, held on 11 April 2013, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman explained that on 9 July 2013 she had attended Calsholt Activity Centre's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations with the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside. The celebrations coincided with the launch of the Olympic Legacy Plan, with the Olympic Gold Medal cyclist Dani King and over 50 Hampshire based Olympic Games Makers in attendance.

The Chairman also updated the Committee on the Basingstoke Canal. In March 2013, a landslip near Dogmersfield had delayed the re-opening of this section of the Canal. With additional safety measures in place, together with close monitoring by HCC Engineers and Canal staff, it had recently been possible to re-open this section to boating. Officers were working towards a solution that would re-open the adjoining towpath in 2014.

The Committee also noted the proposed Members' Tours to the Basingstoke Canal (13 September 2013) and a tour of the south of the county (24 October 2013) to include Calsholt Activity Centre. Members later suggested that this tour should also include the Lymington and Keyhaven Nature reserve.

5. **DEPUTATIONS**

No deputations were received.

6. **INTRODUCTION TO SCRUTINY**

The Committee received a presentation (Item 6 in the Minutes Book) from the Director of Policy and Governance.

Members heard:

- The role of scrutiny at the Council, its background and purpose.
- That a key element of the Committee's work would be to review and make recommendations to assist in the development of future policies and strategies.

- The Committee was responsible for holding the Executive and Council to account, as a critical friend, regarding the “pre-scrutiny” of decisions yet to be made and the “call-in” of decisions made but not yet implemented.
- The presentation advised Members how they could set the work programme for future meetings, via requests to the Chairman.
- Members’ attention was drawn to the handout provided which set out a flowchart to assess work programme suggestions. Amongst other things, this stressed that suggestions should be within the remit of the Committee’s terms of reference, evidence based, of county-wide community concern, and likely to lead to a productive outcome.

RESOLVED:

That the officers be thanked for the presentation and that its content be considered when assessing the Committee’s future work programme.

7. **INTRODUCTION TO KEY SERVICES SCRUTINISED BY THE COMMITTEE**

The Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services (CCBS) gave a presentation (Item 7 in Minute Book). In summary, this set out:

- The work of the department and how some of its work was scrutinised by the Policy and Resources Select Committee.
- The financial context and the challenges of further savings which had to be found.
- The Library and Information Service which, within budgetary challenges, sought to increase and broaden participation and was increasingly working with volunteers and in different partnerships.
- The work of the Sports Team and the Community Support Team.
- The Culture and Heritage Services and, in particular, the importance of volunteers to the Countryside and Arts and Museums Services.

Members noted the importance of the Department’s work to both the county’s residents and tourists, in addition to the need to maximise incomes where possible to protect services against challenging budgets.

During questions, it was explained that best practice of working with volunteers was shared between different services to achieve a professional approach, which also recognised the needs and interests of the volunteers themselves.

During debate, Members commended the free access to the Definitive Map and the online reference facility from the Hampshire Records Office and recommended further promotion of the latter. Members also requested a tour of the Records Office.

The Executive Member highlighted a conference to be held in November on best practice for charitable trusts and future grants and a conference next year for parishes and community groups regarding the maintenance of footpaths.

RESOLVED:

That the officers be thanked for the presentation and that its content be considered when assessing the Committee's future work programme.

8. **PRE-SCRUTINY: SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY STRATEGY FOR HAMPSHIRE AND THE ISLE OF WIGHT 2013-17**

The Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services summarised the key points from the written report (see Item 8 in the Minute Book) and Members noted:

- That Hampshire County Council was a partner in the Sport Hampshire and Isle of Wight Partnership (SHIOW), which was one of 49 county sports partnerships across the country. SHIOW included the unitary areas of Southampton, Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight.
- The proposed new Strategy (set out in the Appendix to the Report) updated the existing Strategy, published in 2009, and sought to inspire "more people to be more active, more often."

In response to Members' questions, the Committee noted how the Strategy sought to include and encourage hard-to-reach groups. The Director explained how the Strategy was promoted through its own website, social media websites, work place initiatives and promotion at large events.

The Committee also noted the need to encourage a new generation of coaches and groundstaff at many of the county's sports clubs and how procedures, such as the Criminal Records Bureau Checks, acted as a disincentive to many. The Director agreed to forward this concern to the Hampshire Playing Fields Association.

Whilst Members noted how the Strategy had included primary school children, there was concern that less consideration had been given to encouraging greater participation from older people. The Director and Executive Member agreed that the

Strategy should be amended to reflect this concern.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside adopt the final version of the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight 2013-17, subject to the Committee's request that the Strategy better references the needs of older people.

9. **PRE SCRUTINY: HAMPSHIRE TALENTED ATHLETE SCHEME**

The Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services summarised the key points from the written report (see Item 8 in the Minute Book) and Members noted that:

- Research had found that most athletes were spending approximately £6,000 per year to fund their sport (for example, the cost of travelling to competitions) and the revised scheme sought to further assist them to progress to world class competition standard.
- The Report proposed an increase in funding and that more funding be targeted at the highest performing athletes.
- The partnership with Southampton Solent University, the free access to leisure centres and physiotherapy service and the free bus passes from Stagecoach, Bluestar and First bus companies.
- That £10,000 of the Scheme be ring-fenced for public speaking training and expenses, to enable supported athletes to deliver inspiring assemblies to children.
- That a proportion of the funding be set aside to allow for payments to be made during year in response to the needs of athletes, for example, to compete in at a specific event.

In response to questions, the Director confirmed that monitoring procedures were in place for the payments.

Following debate Members welcomed the scheme and agreed the recommendations as set out.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Executive Member for Culture, Heritage and Countryside approve:

1. The changes to the Hampshire Talented Athlete Scheme, as set out in Appendix 3 and Section 7 of the Report.
2. The £46,000 increase in funding from the CCRA Policy Fund for the next three years in the lead up to the 2016 Rio Olympic and Paralympic Games, to enhance the grants and

The Rec to be passed onto the Executive Member.

support services provided by the Hampshire Talented Athlete Scheme.

3. The transfer of £24,000 to Sport Hampshire & IOW to administer the support services including physiotherapy, sports science support, one-off payments for specific competitions and athlete appearances within Hampshire schools as outlined in Appendix 4 of the Report.

10. **SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee noted the work programme (Item 10 in the Minute Book).

RESOLVED:

That the Committee's Work Programme be approved as set out.

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Chairman, 10 September 2013