

AT A MEETING of the Policy and Resources Select Committee of HAMPSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL held at the Castle, Winchester on Thursday, 23rd
November, 2017

Chairman:
p Councillor Jonathan Glen

Vice Chairman:
p Councillor Keith Evans

p Councillor Ray Bolton
p Councillor Adam Carew
p Councillor Adrian Collett
p Councillor Judith Grajewski
a Councillor Edward Heron
a Councillor Keith House
p Councillor Roger Huxstep

p Councillor Peter Latham
p Councillor Anna McNair Scott
p Councillor Floss Mitchell
p Councillor Bruce Tennent
p Councillor Michael Westbrook

Also present with the agreement of the Chairman: Councillor Roy Perry, Executive Member for Policy and Resources, Councillor Patricia Stallard, Executive Member for Public Health, and Sir Jonathan Portal (invited to observe item regarding Supporting Families Programme)

17. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Cllr Heron and Cllr House. Cllr Carter attended as the conservative substitute Member. Cllr Thornton attended as the liberal democrat substitute Member.

18. DECLARATIONS 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 any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

19. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and agreed.

20. **DEPUTATIONS**

No deputations were received at this meeting.

21. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman had no announcements on this occasion.

22. **CRIME AND DISORDER ANNUAL SCRUTINY - HAMPSHIRE SUPPORTING (TROUBLED) FAMILIES PROGRAMME**

The Select Committee received a report and supporting presentation from the Lead for Hampshire Supporting (Troubled) Families Programme, on behalf of the Director of Children's Services, providing an update on Phase Two of Hampshire's Supporting Families Programme (see Item 6 in the Minute Book). The Chairman introduced the item, reminding Members that it was a requirement for this committee once a year to consider issues relating to how the County Council works in partnership with other bodies to prevent and reduce crime and disorder.

It was noted that, as requested by committee members, the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight had been invited to attend the meeting. However, he had given apologies. It was noted that the County Council works with the PCC on a number of programmes. Members were reminded that scrutiny of the PCC was undertaken by the Hampshire Police and Crime Panel, on which the County Council was represented by Councillor Jan Warwick.

Members heard that the Supporting (Troubled) Families Programme in Hampshire had been independently evaluated and found to be successful in avoiding costs to public services. The County Council had submitted an Expression of Interest to the Department for Communities and Local Government for 'earned autonomy', which would provide funding in place of Payment by Results in the last two years of the programme.

Members heard that 5,540 families in Hampshire would be targeted for support in phase two of the programme, of which around 1,200 would receive intensive support. For phase two, multiple providers were involved in supporting the programme, which was anticipated to help ensure there would be enough capacity to meet demand.

Members asked questions and discussed the topic. Members heard that 'safetynet' software was used as a secure location that any agency working with a family could use to access relevant documentation, including Hampshire constabulary.

Members noted that a high number of the Supporting Families Programme cohort were identified as having mental health issues. It was reported that this may not mean a diagnosis by a mental health professional, but could be identified by those working with the family e.g. depression. For issues to be

recorded in the families Plan they would need to be agreed between the multi agency professionals involved and with the consent of the family member.

Members heard that when Children's Centres transitioned to the Family Support Service, there was a slow down in success rates on the Supporting Families Programme during the change over. However, now the Family Support Service was in place this was working well.

It was noted that a report on the impact of phase two was due to be provided by Southampton Solent University. An interim report was due in early 2018, the final report in early 2019. Current funding for the Supporting Families Programme runs until 2019/20 and at present further funding was not anticipated. It was considered that the programme running for eight years was a good amount of time to embed the principles in day to day working across the organisations involved.

It was confirmed that the voluntary sector formed part of the network of organisations involved in supporting families, and in some cases provided the lead professional. It was reported that support would continue to be offered to families beyond the point at which outcomes were reported to central government, where needed.

Cllr Stallard, as Executive Member whose portfolio the Supporting Families Programme sits with, thanked Members for their feedback, and encouraged Members to raise awareness of the programme and the opportunity to nominate families for support.

RESOLVED:

The Policy and Resources Select Committee:

- note the continuing work of the Supporting Families Programme
- consider the positive outcomes being achieved through the programme for families in Hampshire as a significant contribution towards preventing crime and disorder and associated risk factors
- note the future direction and next steps

23. **MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY**

The Select Committee received a report and supporting presentation from the Head of Finance, on behalf of the Director of Corporate Resources – Corporate Services, regarding the Medium Term Financial Strategy (see Item 7 in the Minute Book). The report had been considered by Cabinet on 16 October 2017 and County Council on 2 November 2017, and was considered by the Select Committee as part of its role to scrutinise financial management.

Members were reminded of the background to the County Council's current financial position, and heard that the financial strategy was to apply the same percentage reduction to all departments to meet the savings target under the transformation to 2019 programme. However, additional funding was provided where there were particular pressures e.g. social care demand growth.

It was reported that a section on Commercialisation had now been added to the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). Members queried why the County Council did not invest in property. It was responded that advice had been received that in order to spread risk, a minimum portfolio of £400 million would be recommended. The County Council did not plan to invest in property on this scale. However, the County Council did invest some funds in pooled property funds.

A Member commented that in previous decades the County Council had invested in land which was later used for development. It was responded that this was still the case, however there were less opportunities available to do so.

It was noted that the feedback to the public consultation undertaken in the summer of 2017 showed 65% of those responding supported the current financial strategy.

Members heard that the Better Care Fund and Adult Social Care Council Tax precept were anticipated to cover adult social care pressures up to 2019/20. Pressures were now increasingly being experienced in children's social care and schools budgets.

Cllr Perry reported that the Cabinet had asked officers to consider alternatives to avoid making the savings that affect community transport. He had received notice that the Secretary of State was willing to meet to hear the County Council's proposals regarding concessionary travel. The County Council was lobbying for the opportunity to introduce a charge for concessionary passes and potentially a contribution to bus journeys, in order to subsidise community transport and bus subsidies. However it was not clear yet whether this approach would be acceptable.

It was discussed that the County Council was willing to devolve some tasks to parishes e.g. grass cutting, however not all areas are parished. Cllr Collett declared a non-pecuniary interest – that he was Chair of a Town Council and a member of another (he remained in the meeting). Cllr Collett reported that Fleet became parished seven years ago and it had been a success, and encouraged areas that aren't already to consider setting up parish or town councils. The Chairman suggested this was something that could be explored through HIOWLGA.

A Member queried why the County Council had not considered running bus services directly. The Chairman of the Economy Transport and Environment Select Committee reported that she had asked about this and received a briefing note on the topic, that could be circulated to members of the Policy and Resources Select Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the Policy and Resources Select Committee note the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

24. **APPROVAL OF TASK & FINISH GROUPS**

The Select Committee received a report on behalf of the Director of Transformation and Governance (see Item 8 in the Minute Book) regarding the approval of task and finish groups planned by the other Select Committees. Members noted that the Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee was planning to hold two task and finish groups.

RESOLVED:

That the Policy & Resources Select Committee support the proposed Task & Finish Groups being undertaken by the Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee:

- Working Group on Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships (STPs)
- Task and Finish Working Group on Social Inclusion Services

25. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chairman presented the proposed work programme for the Select Committee, as updated since the last meeting (see Item 9 in the Minute Book).

RESOLVED:

That the Work Programme is agreed, subject to any amendments agreed at this meeting.

Chairman,