

HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Council

17th May 2016

TITLE:	Select Committees' Annual Report 2015/16
REPORT BY:	Cllrs Barrow, A McKeown and Siddall
CONTACT OFFICER:	Helen Gale, Member and Community Support Services Officer

Appendix – Sub-Committees

1. **Reason for the Report:** Article 7, Part 2 of the Council's Constitution requires Select Committees to report annually to full Council. The report is circulated to all Councillors for their information.
2. **Recommendation**
 - 2.1 That the report be noted.
3. **Executive Summary**
 - 3.1 In the past year Select Committees have continued to scrutinise performance, hold the Executive to account and contribute to policy development. The broad range of work and issues considered by Select Committees during 2015/16 are summarised and commented on by each of the Select Chairs. The appendix outlines issues that have been given more detailed consideration by Sub-Committees.
4. **How this report links to Corporate Priorities**
 - 4.1 Corporate Select Committee:
 - Meet financial challenges and provide value for money
 - Support economic development and regenerationCommunity Select Committee
 - Protect and improve the environment
 - Create a safer and healthier environment for our residents to live and workHousing Select Committee
 - Meet financial challenges and provide value for money
 - Protect and improve the environment
 - Create a safer and healthier environment for our residents to live and work

5. **Implications**

5.1 Community Safety - (Crime and Disorder Act 1998)

Implications will continue to be addressed in the reports considered by Committees and Sub-Committees.

5.2 Workforce

Implications will continue to be addressed in the reports considered by Committees and Sub-Committees.

5.3 Equality and Diversity/Equality Impact Assessment

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Council's Diversity and Equality Policies.

Implications will continue to be addressed in the reports considered by Committees and Sub-Committees.

5.4 Financial Considerations

Any costs incurred at present are unlikely to be significant and will be funded from the scrutiny budget.

Implications will continue to be addressed in the reports considered by Committees and Sub-Committees.

5.5 Legal

Implications will continue to be addressed in the reports considered by Committees and Sub-Committees.

5.6 Sustainability

Implications will continue to be addressed in the reports considered by Committees and Sub-Committees.

5.7 Internal and External Consultation

Implications will continue to be addressed in the reports considered by Committees and Sub-Committees.

5.8 Risk Assessment

Implications will continue to be addressed in the reports considered by Committees and Sub-Committees.

6. **Background and Detail**

- 6.1 The Executive and Executive Councillors are responsible for making the day-to-day decisions concerning the running of the Council. Select Committees ensure that the Executive are publicly held to account for their actions, promoting open and transparent decision making and democratic accountability. They also have a role in researching, scrutinising other bodies, ensuring that the Council's policy and budget framework is respected and realising the key aims of the Council's Corporate Plan.
- 6.2 Select Committees may appoint Sub-Committees to examine any issue in more depth. Reports and recommendations from Sub-Committees have been based on cross party consensus.
- 6.3 Effective participation has taken place with the involvement of partners, outside organisations and individuals at Select Committees and Sub-Committees. Executive councillors attend Select Committee meetings and provide updates or answer questions. They have also attended and contributed to Sub-Committee meetings.
- 6.4 The Corporate Select Committee acts as co-ordinator of the overall work programmes of the Select Committees. Each Select Committee is responsible for setting its own work. The work programme also links to and is informed by the forward plan, with referred items and policy development items being considered by Select Committees prior to the Executive. The work programme for all Select Committees is circulated with papers for Corporate Select Committee and the relevant work programme to individual Select Committees. The Forward Plan is also available on the website. The Democratic and Community Services Team provides Committee support and an Executive Director is responsible for each Committee. There is also a significant contribution of time and resources from other service area officers.
- 6.5 **Corporate Select Committee – Councillor Alan Barrow**
 - 6.5.1 Corporate Select has acted as the main scrutiny and policy development committee, taking an overview of the other two Select Committees and their work programmes. A meeting of Select Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen and Executive Councillors considered sub-committees, training and development.
 - 6.5.2 The Committee has continued to monitor the performance of the Council. Finance and performance management monitoring reports have been considered. A workshop considered the draft Performance Framework and associated targets for 2016/17. Recommendations made to Corporate Select Committee on 11 April 2016 were approved and went on to be approved and adopted by the Executive on 14 April 2016. The Council's Medium Term Financial Plan and budget were also rigorously scrutinised. A number of irrecoverable write offs were recommended and approved.

- 6.5.3 The Committee considered and commented on the Corporate Plan 2015 – 19. The Council’s vision, aims and objectives, influencing objectives and priorities and a process of internal and external consultation went on to be approved by the Executive and Council.
- 6.5.4 The Executive was recommended and approved the way forward for the Housing revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan, the prioritisation of capital projects during 2016/17 and a phased approach to update stock condition information, in order to ensure the Council has full condition information on its portfolio of properties by the end of a three year period (March 2019).
- 6.5.5 The Committee considered the results of the recent condition survey at the Pavilion Gardens and options for repairs, and the Executive approved recommendations on a range of actions to address issues raised. A further report outlined a number of business continuity options pending the closure of the Octagon Hall, and made a number of recommendations approved by the Executive, including the installation of a marquee on the promenade. There was an update on the current status with the Pavilion Gardens construction project and recommendations on the way forward were recommended and approved by the Executive.
- 6.5.6 There was an update on the Glossop Halls project and the Victoria Hall and recommendations on the way forward were approved by the Executive. The Committee and the Executive also considered an update on the latest position with the Buxton Crescent and Thermal Spa project as well as the remaining key risks associated with the project.
- 6.5.7 The draft Growth Strategy was approved for public consultation. A bid for Local Growth Fund grant money to help deliver the bridge over the river Goyt in Whaley Bridge, to improve access to the Bingswood industrial estate and support the retention of businesses in the area, was considered. The Executive approved the use the Tesco S106 money to commission the studies outlined.
- 6.5.8 Proposals for an interim approach to supporting tenants facing hardship, as a result of supporting people funding reductions and the way forward were agreed by the Executive. Approval was given to the disposal of Council owned land adjacent to the former Ferro Alloys site and measures to bring forward an 100% affordable housing scheme. Approval was also given to introduce a grants programme to spend the Right to Buy receipts (RTB), where it was suggested that Registered providers will be invited to bid for funding to deliver new affordable specialist housing across the Borough.

- 6.5.9 The request from High Peak Theatre Trust for an additional non-recurring grant of £20,000 and 5 applications for Heritage Regeneration Grants were recommended for approval by the Executive.
- 6.5.10 Representatives from HM Courts & Tribunal Services (HMCTS) outlined the consultation proposals on the provision of courts and tribunal services in the midlands region. The consultation document indicated that should Buxton Court close, then the workload would be moved to Chesterfield. In response to concerns expressed by members regarding the proposed move to Chesterfield, including journey times, it was acknowledged by HMCTS that other locations could more sensibly link with Buxton, such as Macclesfield, Stockport, Manchester City Centre and Glossop, and that there would be no objection to where postcodes would be directed to. It was anticipated that the increased use of IT would reduce the need for people to attend court in person, including increased online use, video and telephone links. The Chief Executive and the Executive Councillor for Finance and Corporate Services submitted a response to the consultation on behalf of the Committee. The Council also submitted a response on how the proposals could affect the daily business of the Council. It was reported to Council in February that the Lord Chancellor had decided that Buxton Magistrates' and County Court will be closed and its work moved to Chesterfield Justice Centre and Stockport Magistrates' and County Court. Consideration will also be given to some family public law being moved to Manchester Civic Justice Centre. It is stated that it is the cases generated from the north of the Borough such as Glossop, Hadfield, New Mills and Whaley Bridge that will be heard in the North West Region.
- 6.5.11 The Committee also considered the outcome of the results of the open market bid process to outsource the operation of the existing council-operated outdoor markets, and made recommendations which were approved by the Executive. A lease was granted for playing fields at West Drive, Tintwistle. The draft Design Guide for the purposes of public consultation was approved. There was an update on progress with implementation of the Council's Procurement Strategy. The Customer Access Strategy and procurement were approved. Outcomes emerging from the service review process, including the staffing and financial implications and details of the progress made with implementation were also considered.
- 6.5.12 The scrutiny and policy development work by members of the Committee and Sub-Committees continues to be of high quality, with the Executive Councillors giving careful consideration to comments prior to making their decisions.

6.6 Community Select Committee – Councillor Edward Siddall

- 6.6.1 The Committee considered the outcome of the compliance assessment undertaken in regards to the Revised Waste Framework Directive (rWFD) for HPBC. It demonstrated that the Council did not need to change its recycling collection services to achieve compliance with the rWFD. A proposal for a commercial recycling service was also considered, following the revised Waste Framework Directive (rWFD) compliance assessment previously undertaken, which identified the need to introduce a recycling service for commercial premises of the four target materials. It was recommended and the Executive approved an option to have separate collections of glass and cardboard and would be delivered utilising existing operational resources with limited capacity. The process for developing joint operating arrangements with Staffordshire Moorlands District Council (SMDC) for Waste Collection and Street Cleansing was outlined and went on to be approved by the Executive, as the current arrangement with Veolia was due to come to an end in August 2017 and the Waste Sub-Committee will be scrutinising the proposals in more detail.
- 6.6.2 Derbyshire County Council representatives reported that there had been a condition survey of all residential care homes and, to be financially secure and ready for future needs, criteria had been applied. The review was separate from the £157 million of savings required at the County Council. There was a need to close 4 or 5 homes and reduce short term beds across the County. It was proposed to close 4 homes plus the 6 short term beds at Eccles Fold Resource Centre. The Cabinet would take the decision in November. If the list of closures was amended equivalent savings would still be required. Looking at unit costs if Eccles Fold were retained a additional 20 bed accommodation would need to close. An earlier 2012 proposal to close Eccles Fold and more homes had been delayed and reviewed. New homes were planned in Buxton and Belper. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman responded to the consultation document, based on the issues raised and comments made.
- 6.6.3 Representatives from Healthier Together and Stockport NHS and North Derbyshire CCG reported that Stepping Hill had been appointed as one of the hospitals to work in partnership to provide single shared services for the whole of Greater Manchester and those using the services from neighbouring areas. Clinicians from Wythenshawe Hospital sought a judicial review of the decision which was not upheld. Stepping Hill has now been confirmed as one of the 4 Centres of Excellence.
- 6.6.4 Tameside and Glossop CCG gave a presentation around the place based approach to better prosperity, health and wellbeing. The proposed model was to integrate health and social care with

services organised around communities. 5 localities would be established (including 1 for Glossop) to take responsibility for health with general practice at it's heart. An urgent integrated care service would also be established to incorporate health and social care crisis services. There was also an update on the Quality in a Place Project, trialling whole area system inspections and with Salford and Tameside and Glossop as pilot areas.

- 6.6.5 Derbyshire County Council's public health annual report was presented. The report was based around a different theme each year, and this year's was around mental health and had been produced in accordance with social marketing principles with a targeted, user friendly approach. 5 ways to wellbeing were tried and tested actions to improve mental and physical health, namely, Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Keep Learning and Give. The report was web based and there were links to access lots of information in each area. Members were advised that from April 2016 all services provided throughout Derbyshire would be the same, but could be via different providers.
- 6.6.6 East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS) provided the committee with an update around the activities and future plans of EMAS within the High Peak area. Within High Peak, the ambulance stations were to remain in some form (as the estate within EMAS was being reviewed), supported by Community First Responders, thereby keeping services local within rural areas. The detail of the plans were being developed for consultation. Representatives agreed to attend a future meeting, once more detail around the Clinical Delivery Model was known. North West Ambulance Service representatives also provided an update around their work within High Peak, primarily in the Glossop area and outlined future plans. Representatives also agreed to attend a future meeting, once more detail around future delivery plans had been developed.
- 6.6.7 There was also a presentation from Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service, outlining the purpose of the service, risk management tools and community risk mapping. The achievements of the service in terms of reaching their savings targets were also outlined which included a reduction in firefighter, support staff and managerial posts, a reduction in borrowing costs, reduced transport costs, a reduction in the number of members, reduced spend on supplies and services, and a change in the shift system in Swadlincote. A total of £7.8M savings had been made, and the same number of fire stations and engines were still in operation. A number of collaborations had been developed including co-location with EMAS and emergency co-responding, together with a joint police and fire service HQ. Mountain rescue and cave rescue were stationed at Buxton Fire Station.

- 6.6.8 The Committee considered a consultation being undertaken by Derbyshire County Council on plans to close children's centres. There was concern regarding the loss of vital services provided by the centres to communities throughout the borough which, with the closure of New Mills and Chapel-en-le-Frith, would mean that there would be no centres left open in the central area of the Borough and residents would have to travel to either Fairfield or Glossop to access services. Members confirmed significant use of the centres by residents in Chapel and New Mills. On behalf of the Committee the Chairman and Executive member responded to the consultation.
- 6.6.9 The Community Transport consultation was considered. Statutory provision included free transport to school over a certain distance and the Gold Card Scheme, which costs the County Council £10 million. Community transport was discretionary and the County Council needed to make savings. A reduction of £300,000 was planned from April 2016. The current subsidy per user is £1,000. County Council recommendations included retaining the service with no change to eligibility but a reduced service. Current services of 2 or 3 times per week would be reduced to once a week. Fares would be increased from £2 return to £3, with actual journeys costing between £12 and £2. Door to door transport for doctor or hospital appointments would be charged at a cost per mile, without the £50,000 CCG funding. Instead of grant funding it would be a competitive process and could improve efficiency. Existing providers and private providers could tender for the contract, with it being proposed that every community had a service. Demand and current use would be considered. Comments raised included possibly reducing the fleet at Glossop and private providers not necessarily covering less used routes, creating pockets of poverty. On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman responded to the consultation document, based on the comments raised.
- 6.6.10 The Committee considered and noted an update on the progress of targets and current status of the annual action plan produced by Places for People Leisure and its associated link to the delivery of the High Peak Borough Council Sport and Physical Activity Strategy. Committee visits to see changes at New Mills and Glossop Leisure Centres have taken place. The delivery of the High Peak Play Strategy "Playtime in the Peak – A strategy for Play 2007 – 2012" was reviewed. The Committee reviewed and noted the delivery of the High Peak and Derbyshire Dales Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategy 2011 – 2014, which was developed in response to a requirement of PPG17, and was used to identify improvements that should be made in both the quantity and quality of provision, taking account locational requirement according to where people live. The Government's updated Strategy on Sport and Physical Activity,

entitled “Sporting Future : A new Strategy for an Active Nation” and the implications and potential impact for the Council’s strategic direction were noted. The strategy sets out the Government’s vision for the future direction and physical activity, its funding priorities and focus on outcomes. There was also a presentation on the Derbyshire Cycling Plan 2015 – 2025. Ambitions, strategic aims, targets and promotion were discussed.

- 6.6.11 The Committee also considered a review of environmental enforcement which provided an update on proposals to implement a more flexible way of delivering environmental enforcement, through the multi skilling of a large number of employees with existing enforcement capability within their job roles. The Committee considered an update on the new requirements under the Micro Chipping of Dogs (England) Regulations 2015 and the proposed awareness raising activities and enforcement of the regulations. An annual update on the Councillors’ Initiative Fund and the results and associated proposed funding from the Council’s Community Fund was considered, which included proposals designed to enable the Council to achieve the efficiency targets in the medium term financial plan. Improvements to the operation of the Fund and reduction in the allocation to £750 per member from 2016/17 were approved by the Executive. Community Fund Grants to the Strategic Partners and other voluntary groups were supported. Recommendations from the Winter Maintenance Sub-Committee were supported (as detailed in the Appendix).
- 6.6.12 The Committee and Executive approved a procurement exercise with regards to leasing and maintaining specialist horticultural equipment, to ensure service continuity in the future and obtain best value. Tender returns for the provision and maintenance of Specialist Grounds Maintenance equipment along with the maintenance of existing Council owned equipment in streets and housing teams were also considered and approved by the Executive.
- 6.6.13 The Committee considered a report which outlined the actions taken to implement the Child Protection and Vulnerable Adults Policy since its adoption in April 2014, together with changes necessary to the Council’s Policy required by the Care Act 2014. The Executive noted the actions undertaken to implement the Council’s Policy. The Committee also considered the requirements of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015. The Committee supported the recommendations to the Executive which noted the content of the report and approved the action plan.
- 6.6.14 There was considerable commitment and contribution during the year from members of the Committee, as well as representatives from outside agencies and officers.

6.7 Housing Select Committee – Councillor Anthony McKeown

- 6.7.1 A report on the Homelessness Budget 2015/16 expenditure and Second Homes Council Tax allocation for 2015/16 was considered. Around 250 affected households, increase in mutual exchanges, prevention outcomes 2009/10 – 2013/14, spending and 2015/16 budget were discussed. The successful application to the Government's fund to support those fleeing domestic abuse was noted. The Executive were recommended and noted the Homelessness Budget distribution for 2015/16. The Homelessness Budget distribution for 2016/17 and use of second homes council tax funding were also approved by the Executive, subject to the approval of the Second Homes Council Tax bid.
- 6.7.2 There were regular updates on the performance of the Council throughout the year across a range of Housing measures and performance targets. The effects of management actions and the impact of these measures were monitored.
- 6.7.3 The Council's response to the Government's Pay to Stay consultation paper, around proposals for high income tenants in social rented housing to pay up to a market rent, was considered. Issues included synchronising additional rent payment with other benefits in order to maintain incentives to work, the need to ensure that those subject to additional rent were not then eligible to benefits or credits as a result and queries around how to ascertain the market rent for a council property, how accurate income data would be collected and how changes in circumstances would be dealt with.
- 6.7.4 An update on the delivery of affordable housing across the Borough was received. It was reported that a timetable for work to Peveril House was expected, discussions on the Otter Hole site were taking place, the planning application for Surrey Street had been received and the New Mills site was listed as an allocated housing site in the former Local Plan.
- 6.7.5 There was a presentation on disabled facilities grants. Mandatory grants in the private sector, types of funded works, application process and deadlines, monitoring, 2014/15 data and future considerations were outlined. There was a further report on the proposed joint County Council and District Councils transformation review of Disabled Facilities Grants and the potential impact on adaptation assistance and future funding. The Executive supported the pledge made to the Derbyshire Partnership Forum.
- 6.7.6 There have been updates on the latest information regarding the Derbyshire County Council (DCC) Challenge and proposed changes to Housing Related Support (HRS) services programme

(formerly known as Supporting People funding [SP]). Consideration was also given to the Derbyshire County Council statement outlining its support for Syrian refugees, resettlement details, 5 hard to let properties identified in High Peak and the Borough Council's contribution to the national settlement programme.

- 6.7.7 There was an update on the void process and the voids improvement action plan. The planned additional operational improvement plan, targets and hard to let properties were discussed.
- 6.7.8 Consideration was given to the Fairfield Road project timeline and update. Discussion took place on the meeting with landlords on 1 December, encouraging landlords to become accredited with the new scheme from 1 January 2016, enforcement and a possible residents' association. The Committee also received an update around the Landlord Accreditation Scheme. The refreshed scheme was to be re-launched on an Alliance-wide basis with a single set of principles at the end of January.
- 6.7.9 Representatives from Adullum Housing presented an informative overview of their work and the projects funded by High Peak Borough Council. Particular reference was made to a number of schemes including Safe (housing and support for young people aged 18), Leaving Care Accommodation Service, High Peak Bond Scheme and Prepare to Place Scheme (support to work through an accredited tenancy preparation course). Representatives from Peaks and Plains Housing Trust also presented overviews of their work on properties in the High Peak. Progress of the Buxton Housing Market Intervention Project was noted and it was agreed that the project would be closed on completion of Peveril House.
- 6.7.10 Consideration was given to the performance results following the award of the Gas Servicing and Maintenance contract to Liberty Gas Services Ltd. It was noted that procurement makes provision to extend the agreement to a third year 2017/2018, subject to performance and to suit the future strategic needs of the Council. A number of contracts were considered and contractors appointed for capital roof renewals 2015/16, PIR/electrical testing and works, programmed heating replacements and kitchen renewals 2015/16 and 2016/17.
- 6.7.11 There was also an update on the Housing and Planning Bill and an updated Tenants Alteration Policy was recommended for adoption to the Executive.
- 6.7.12 It was with great sadness that the Committee lost Graham Fox (Tenant Member) and Jason Hawkes (Head of Homes and Communities). Both were valued and are missed. Thanks go to

all members of the Committee, including the reappointed Independent and Tenant members, and officers for their commitment, involvement and hard work in the last year.

- 6.8 Select Committees have the right to call-in decisions taken by the Executive or individual Executive councillors before they are implemented. The decision is then not implemented until the relevant Committee or Corporate Select has considered the matter and/or dismissed it, referred it back to the Executive for re-consideration (or referred it to the full Council), and the matter has been considered. There were no Executive decisions called in during 2015 -16.
- 6.9 Areas for training were previously identified by the Councillor Support and Development Group. Following the elections in May 2015 a wide ranging training induction plan took place for existing and new members. Training events are also arranged throughout the year as required.
- 6.10 After the May 2015 elections all members were issued with a tablet computer and full training and support was provided. Members and relevant officers now receive an agenda pack by email and are able to download Committee papers to the tablets. Technical support is available as issues arise and there has been a considerable reduction in printing and distribution costs.
- 6.11 The Alliance Management Team have been directly involved with Select Committees, with the Executive Directors working closely with the Committee Chairmen to plan agendas, provide briefings and ensure the Committees meets their objectives.

Mark Trillo

Executive Director (People) and Monitoring Officer

**Web Links and
Background Papers**

Agenda and reports for Committees
and Sub-Committees

Location

<http://www.highpeak.gov.uk/agendas-minutes>

Contact details

Helen Gale
Member and Community
Support Services Officer
01298 28400 ext 2140 or
0345 129 7777 ext 2140

Select Committee Work
Programme

<http://www.highpeak.gov.uk/agendas-minutes?committee=111&meeting-date=all>

SUB-COMMITTEES

1. Corporate Select Committee

1.1 Asset Management Plan Sub-Committee (Councillors Barrow, Claff, Douglas, Lomax and G Wharmby)

The Sub-Committee was established to review the Council's assets as set out in the Asset Management Plan. A meeting is to be arranged in due course.

1.2 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan Sub-Committee (Councillors Barrow, A McKeown, Grooby, Robins and J Wharmby)

Established in January 2016, jointly with Housing Select Committee, to develop the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan over 12 months. A meeting is to be arranged in due course.

2. Community Select Committee

2.1 Waste Sub-Committee (Councillors Atkins, Howe, Kerr, Siddall, Sizeland and Young)

A Sub-Committee has recently been established to look at the waste collection and street cleansing service delivery model. A meeting is to be arranged in due course.

2.2 Winter Maintenance Sub-Committee (Councillors Howe, Johnson, Kerr (co-opted), Quinn and G Wharmby)

The Sub-Committee was established to examine the approach to the winter maintenance of our streets. Representatives of Derbyshire County Council and Parish Councils were invited to attend. The Winter Maintenance policy, roles and responsibilities, together with snow clearance issues identified by parish councils were considered. Officers from Derbyshire County Council also attended and gave an informative presentation. The Sub-Committee recommendations and report to Community Select were supported and went on to be approved by the Executive. Expenditure of £25,000 was approved and 2 quad bikes were purchased through a framework. There was a media campaign with the County Council promoting self help activities. The Council website was updated and criteria for any new grit bin requests were approved.

3. Housing Select Committee

3.1 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan Sub-Committee (Councillors Barrow, A McKeown, Grooby, Robins and J Wharmby)

Established in January 2016, jointly with Corporate Select Committee, to develop the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan over 12 months. A meeting is to be arranged in due course.

