

HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Council

11 May 2017

TITLE:	Select Committees' Annual Report 2016/17
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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 2016/17 are summarised and commented on by each of the Select Chairmen. 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.
 - 6.5.2 The Committee has continued to monitor the Council's Performance and Financial arrangements, through the scrutiny of quarterly reports, together with updates around the medium term financial plan leading to the presentation of the full Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan 2017/18 in February 2017. The Committee also considered the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan Development and established the Housing Revenue Account Working Group to develop the HRA Business Plan based on a self assessment against the CIH Voluntary Code for self financed HRAs (see appendix). The Working Group also considered the Housing Stock Condition survey and made recommendations to Corporate Select and the Executive

around the way forward. A Performance Framework Workshop will be held shortly to review the format of the quarterly performance reports and Annual report, together with consideration of performance and actions for 2017/18 and a refresh of the Council's Corporate Plan.

6.5.3 In July 2016, the Committee considered the findings of the condition surveys into non-housing assets, and established a working group to undertake a robust evaluation of all the available options, and to oversee the implementation of the Asset Management Plan which would be developed as a result of the process.

6.5.4 The Committee scrutinised a number of Regeneration led issues, including:

- Trans Pennine Tunnel Study Update (June 2016). A further report has been requested for the meeting in May 2017, following the consultation into the proposals around the Mottram by-pass.
- Designation of the Neighbourhood Areas for Chinley, Buxworth and Brownside Parish Council (July 2016)
- Growth Strategy for High Peak and delivery mechanisms for housing and employment sites (September 2016)
- Chapel Employment Sites (September 2016)
- RTB Progress Report (February 2017)
- Measuring the Economic Impact of Development (March 2017)

6.5.5 The Committee continued to scrutinise issues relating to Pavilion Gardens, including making recommendations to the Executive around capital works required and proposals for improving the trading position at Pavilion Gardens. Details of the financial performance of Pavilion Gardens were also scrutinised through the quarterly financial and performance monitoring report.

6.5.6 The Committee considered a consultation from DCLG around the proposed new system around the reform of business rates retention system and requested that the Executive respond on the basis of the commentary within the report. The Committee also considered a consultation from North Derbyshire CCG around Care Closer to Home (referred by Community Select Committee) and made a number of comments on the proposals to form the basis of the Council's formal response to the consultation.

6.5.7 The Committee scrutinised a number of service specific issues, including facilities management arrangements, banking arrangements and a review of the Joint Consultative Committee arrangements, and forwarded recommendations to the Executive. The Committee also made a number of recommendations to the Executive, around procurement issues,

including gully cleansing, elections and electoral registration and HRA Capital Contract Awards, having rigorously scrutinised the recommended course of action to ensure that it provided value for money for the Council.

6.5.8 The efficiency and rationalisation programme includes options for exploring alternative methods of service delivery. In September 2016, the Committee considered proposals for alternative delivery vehicles and joint working options for the Alliance Building Control Service. In addition to the recommendations within the report, Corporate Select Committee requested that the final decision on the delivery of the service be taken in consultation with the Leader, which was subsequently approved by the Executive.

6.5.9 In February 2017, on behalf of Community Select Committee, recommendations around the establishment of a joint venture company for the delivery of waste collection, street cleansing, grounds maintenance and fleet management services were fully scrutinised prior to the Executive approving the recommendations within the report.

6.5.10 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 Stewart Young

6.6.1 North Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group gave a presentation to the Committee around the Better Care Closer to Home consultation undertaken by North Derbyshire CCG and Hardwick CCG. The consultation had two elements namely, older people receiving inpatient care in a community hospital and older people with dementia who receive services from a community hospital. On behalf of the Council a response agreed by the Chairman and Executive Councillor was submitted.

6.6.2 Tameside and Glossop CCG provided members with an update around the Care Together Programme being undertaken in Tameside and Glossop.

6.6.3 The Committee considered a consultation by Derbyshire County Council around proposed cuts to voluntary and community bodies and responses from the affected community and voluntary bodies within High Peak. The Committee and the Executive Councillor responded to the consultation. The over-riding concern was the potential for the reduction in the valuable services provided, and the impact on the clients using these services.

- 6.6.4 The discharge of Emergency Planning Functions and an update around two emergency planning exercises, Exercise Lineout and a multi agency table top exercise were also discussed.
- 6.6.5 Chief Superintendent Debbie Matthews and Inspector Barry Doyle gave an update on police cover throughout the area. It was stressed that new arrangements would be reviewed daily, with a full review planned and officers agreed to provide a further update in due course.
- 6.6.6 It was reported that Pavilion Gardens had historically attracted anti-social behaviour that continues to have a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality. Following partnership work with Derbyshire Constabulary, it was considered that a Public Spaces Protection Order would assist in stopping individuals or groups committing anti-social behaviour in the area. The Executive requested formal consultation and went on to approve the introduction of a Public Spaces Protection Order to prevent on-going anti-social behaviour in and around Pavilion Gardens car park, the bandstand and enclosed children's play area.
- 6.6.7 There were also updates on Community Safety Activities undertaken during 2015/16 and planned for 2016/17, activities to improve the Council's support for Councillors, Environmental Enforcement and Enviro Crime and the publicised schedule of activities. The procedure followed to manage event applications by organisers wishing to use parks and open spaces owned by the Council, the performance of Places for People Leisure (PfPL) in 2015-16 and the Summer Activity Programme were also considered.
- 6.6.8 Roger Bennett, Operations Secretary of Buxton Mountain Rescue Team, had been invited to the meeting to give an outline on the work of the Peak District Mountain Rescue Organisation and the 7 affiliated teams.
- 6.6.9 The Committee considered an appraisal of the options for the Council's future operating arrangements for its Waste Collection and Street Cleansing services, and recommendations made to the Executive on the way forward went on to be approved. An update on the impact of the removal of the bring site service was also considered. Comments were submitted following DCC consultation around proposed changes to how household recycling centres are operated.
- 6.6.10 There were reports on the process and timescales to update the Council's Sports and Physical Activity Strategy, following the publication of the Government's updated strategy for sports and physical activity, "Sporting Future: A new Strategy for an Active Nation" and the subsequent Sports England Strategy, "Towards

an Active Nation 2016-2021". The contents of the draft strategy were noted and a final version will be considered at a future meeting.

6.6.11 The Committee considered proposed steps to allow the Council to meet its obligations under the Modern Slavery Act 2015, around potential issues of trafficking and modern slavery. Safeguarding duties, together with some suggested revisions to the Council's Safeguarding Policy were also considered. Both went on to be approved by the Executive.

6.6.12 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 The Committee received an update on the Housing and Planning Act 2016 and the impact this will have on the delivery of the authority's Housing and Planning functions. There was also an update on the [Housing White Paper 'fixing our broken housing market'](#).

6.7.2 There was an update on the recently announced Homes and Communities (HCA) Starter Home: Unlocking the Land Fund (March 2016). There was an initial high level of expressions of interest for the delivery of Starter Homes and once the outcome is known a further report is to be considered.

6.7.3 The Homelessness Prevention Budget 2017/18 was noted, subject to the approval of the Second Homes Council Tax bid. Information on the Homelessness Reduction Bill and plans to review the Homelessness Strategy and funded schemes as the regulations emerge were also noted.

6.7.4 Throughout the year, a number of items of committee business have been, due to their wider financial nature, considered by the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan Working Group, and the work of this group will continue in the future.

6.7.5 Subject to recommendations regarding a review of the work of the select committees being approved, the work of the Housing Select Committee will be split, with the strategic housing and future development work being joined with work around the council growth and economic development work, and operational issues being consider by the relevant committee.

- 6.7.6 Approval was given for the Operational Services Team (Housing Repairs and Maintenance) to undertake during 2017-18 and 2018-19 a number of procurement exercises to support the repairs service. It was agreed that the Executive Councillor for Finance and Corporate Services would award contracts which require Executive approval to the Council's preferred supplier, following consultation with the Housing Select Chairman.
- 6.7.7 Thanks go to all members of the Committee, including the 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 2016 -17.
- 6.9 Training events have been arranged throughout the year as required. There is a new Committee Management System called Modern Gov. published on the new shared webpage found via the new website. The app has been downloaded onto members' tablets and training has been provided. Once the agendas and reports (including part 2s) have been created, they can be accessed via the app rather than being sent by email. Technical support is available as issues arise and the new system is easier to access and avoids overloading email inboxes.
- 6.10 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

<https://democracy.highpeak.gov.uk/mgListCommittees.aspx?CT=13107,13236>

Contact details

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SUB-COMMITTEES / WORKING GROUPS

1. Corporate Select Committee

1.1 Asset Management Working Group (Councillors Barrow, Claff, Douglas, Fox, Grooby and Lomax)

A working group was convened in October 2016 to develop the Asset Management Plan. The work programme for the group included Opera House works, a review of Pavilion Gardens, Glossop Halls, the Council's car parks, public conveniences, the leisure asset portfolio and the operational depot asset portfolio. Meetings are on-going and further work is required.

1.2 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan Working Group (Councillors Barrow, Grooby, Lomax, A McKeown, Robins and J Wharmby)

Established to develop the HRA Business Plan based on a self assessment against the Chartered Institute of Housing Voluntary Code for self financed HRAs. Meetings are on-going.

2. Community Select Committee

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

The Sub-Committee was established to look at the waste collection and street cleansing service delivery model. Consideration was given to recycling and improving recycling rates. Community Select Committee considered an appraisal of the options for the Council's future operating arrangements for its Waste Collection and Street Cleansing services, and made a series of recommendations to the Executive on the way forward.

The Sub-Committee went on to join with Staffordshire Moorlands District Councillors. The joint working group considered various refuse related statistical information in the form of briefing notes and received a presentation from ANSA representatives. Site visits took place to the incinerator at Stoke, Gillmoss Materials Recovery Facility, Derbyshire Dales and South Staffordshire Council. Members had the opportunity to give feedback, ask questions and make comments at each of the meetings.

Options for the Council's future operating arrangements for its Waste Collection and Street Cleansing services were appraised by Corporate Select Committee, and a series of recommendations on the way forward went on to be approved by the Executive. The joint working group will scrutinise the operating arrangements proposed at their final meeting to take place shortly and conclude their work.

3. Housing Select Committee

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

Established jointly with Corporate Select Committee, to develop the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan.

The Working Group considered a proposed timetable for undertaking stock condition surveys in order to inform the level of expenditure required to maintain the housing properties. This went on to be approved by Corporate Select Committee and the Executive. Regular updates, options for amending the financial accounting transactions chargeable, a formal rent policy, the Carelink service, voids and allocations, sheltered housing, implications from the Housing and Planning Act, tenancy and neighbourhood management were also considered.