

HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Council

3 May 2018

TITLE:	Select Committees' Annual Report 2017/18
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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 2017/18 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 workEconomy and Growth Select Committee
 - Support economic development and regeneration
 - Protect and improve the environment
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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 2018/19. Recommendations from the Housing Revenue Account Working Group and the Performance Framework Workshop went on to be approved by the Executive.
 - 6.5.3 The Committee considered the Alliance wide Empty Property Strategy, which set out the national and local context and strategic objectives to realise the potential benefits of bringing

properties back into use. The Executive approved the Empty Property Strategy and Implementation Plan.

6.5.4 The outcome of a procurement exercises and disposals of interests were scrutinised and recommendations went on to be approved by the executive on:

- aids and adaptations to HRA properties
- contract for boiler replacements to HRA properties
- river works at Warm Brook, Chapel en le Frith and the Serpentine, Buxton
- sale of the freehold interest in the former water treatment works at Blackshaw Road / Bute Street, Glossop.
- sale of a reversionary freehold interest in land in the Woods Mill area of Glossop
- appointment of Structural Engineers to a framework for design and advice services to the Council
- renewal of housing properties gas servicing and maintenance contact.
- agreed the approach for remediation and further phases of testing of radon levels in council dwellings
- timescales and procurement arrangements for the second phase of the Pavilion Gardens capital works

6.5.5 The Committee considered the annual update on the Council's action to meet its safeguarding duties. This included reference to the self-assessment, areas identified for improvement and training sessions. Actions taken by the Council went on to be noted by the Executive. The Corporate Annual Health and Safety Report for the Financial Year 2016/17 was noted.

6.5.6 An overview of the updated and new business rate reliefs that had been recently announced by central government, the criteria for a new local discretionary business rate relief policy and the impact of the 2017 revaluation were considered. Discussion ensued around the potential implications for the introduction of the reliefs on Council properties and the reasoning for tapers. It was recommended that potential principles and criteria for the Executive to consider in a local discretionary rate relief scheme should be based on sound financial objectives.

6.5.7 The Committee also considered an update on the Glossop Halls Project. A summary of the feedback received from the Heritage Lottery Fund was considered, together with proposals for further actions to progress the project which were approved by the Executive.

6.5.8 A report advised that the Council had received a nomination for the old Council Plant Nursery, Serpentine Walks, off Burlington Road, Buxton to be registered as an asset of community value and in accordance with the Council's policy must decide whether to approve or refuse the nomination. The Individual Executive

member agreed with the recommendation to refuse the listing of the site as an asset of community value.

6.5.9 Consideration was given to a report which introduced an information governance framework for managing information and the associated risks, and supporting regulatory, legal, and operational requirements to ensure that the Council complies with legislative requirements when processing information. The Executive approved the proposed approach to information governance and to register all Councillors with the ICO, and meet the registration costs, unless individual councillors wish to opt-out from registering.

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.

6.5.11 Homelessness Strategy was recently jointly considered with Community Select and the Strategy and Action Plan recommended to the Executive. The Council's Corporate Equality Objectives and Policy were reviewed. Alliance Environmental Services (AES) – Phase 2 Transfer of Services, Facilities Management Arrangements, land at Dollywood Close and electrical testing and remediation contract for HRA properties were also considered.

6.6 Community Select Committee – Councillor Stewart Young

6.6.1 Jessica Williams, Programme Director – Care Together, Tameside and Glossop CCG attended a meeting to provide members with an update around the Care Together Programme, with particular reference to Glossop. Adult Social Care had been transferred from Tameside MBC to the Tameside and Glossop Integrated Care Foundation Trust (ICFT) which did not include Glossop, although work would be undertaken to ensure parity of service for Glossop. Members were advised that as part of the intermediate care plans, investigations were on-going to establish what the best service offer would be to provide the best service outcomes.

6.6.2 Alison Lewin (Deputy Director of Transformation Tameside and Glossop CCG) and Dr Alan Dow (Chairman of Tameside and Glossop CCG) attended a later meeting to provide an update on the review. A briefing for High Peak Borough Councillors had been held. There was a presentation on the options for the delivery of bed based intermediate care. Option 2: all bed-based intermediate care in a single location at the Stamford Unit was the preferred option for Tameside and Glossop CCG. Councillors were concerned about public transport limitations in Glossop, lack of detail on alternative options and benefits to

Glossop residents from option 1: maintain current arrangements at Shire Hill, need for home services to be in place and potential use of Glossop Primary Care Centre on George Street as a base. The Chairman and Executive member responded to the consultation on Review of Intermediate Care Provision in Tameside and Glossop. The Executive supported the Select Committee minute being sent as the Council's response to the consultation at this stage.

- 6.6.3 The Committee also considered the outcome of the Better Care Closer to Home consultation undertaken by North Derbyshire and Hardwick CCGs. Steve Allinson, Chief Operating Officer attended. Members expressed their deep disappointment at the decisions and potential impacts on the residents of High Peak and a letter was sent to North Derbyshire CCG outlining their concerns. Jayne Stringfellow, Chief Nurse and Louise Bainbridge, Chief Finance Officer gave an update to a second meeting. It was reported that Spencer Ward was closing on 26 February 2018, in advance of the original implementation plan. This was for operational rather than financial reasons and due to a shortage of mental health nurses. In Fenton Ward beds would be reduced from 16 to 8 in the autumn. Due to winter pressure 18 beds were in use at present and work was ongoing to identify beds in other places. A small dementia rapid response team had received a positive response from carers and patients.
- 6.6.4 Dr Alan Dow, Chair of Tameside and Glossop CCG and Elaine Richardson, Head of Delivery and Assurance at Tameside and Glossop CCG outlined the review of urgent care provision in Tameside and Glossop being undertaken by the CCG. The CCG needed to establish streaming at A & E departments, and to establish an urgent care centre within each locality. Two options were being proposed for the neighbourhood care hubs, option 1 included hubs in Ashton, Hyde or Longdendale and Glossop, and option 2 included hubs in Ashton, Hyde or Longdendale, Stalybridge, Dukinfield or Mossley, Denton, Droylsden or Audenshaw and Glossop. Reference was made to the 111 service, and instances where Glossop callers had been directed to Derbyshire services rather than Tameside and Glossop and investigation was welcomed. Some concern was also expressed regarding the need to book extended hours services through the 111 service.
- 6.6.5 Phil Booth (High Peak Local Policing Unit) and Barry Doyle (Chief Inspector - Community Policing and Safety for North Division) provided an update from Derbyshire Police. Consideration was given to the changed policy model for response, routine and safer neighbourhoods. The reduction in constables, budget cut of £6m, reduction in traditional crime and violence with and without injury, changes in types of crime, sale of buildings and joint working in Ripley with the Fire Service were

fully discussed. A further update in the autumn has been requested.

- 6.6.6 Terry McDermott (Chief Fire Officer, Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service - DFRS) and Philip Mitchell (Temporary Area Manager, DFRS) reported on the review of duty systems at day staffing stations in Matlock and Glossop and proposed options. The background, introduction, shift patterns, statistics, current model, operational costs, incidents, comparative costs and next steps of the project plan were considered. Option 2: Monday to Friday was the DFRS preferred option, staffed week days and a flexible crew at the weekend. Proposed staffing changes at Glossop, the 3 year implementation plan, recruitment planned, training, skills centre available at Ripley, effect of house building regulations, repairs needed to Glossop Fire Station, modelling and population changes were outlined. Issues of concern raised included the population figure used not representing Glossopdale, 1 consultation event and limited distribution of consultation cards, recruiting difficulties and potential changes in standard of living. DFRS were requested to provide clarification on population figures and the outcome of the review of consultation card distribution. Based on the Committee discussion the Chairman responded to the Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service Consultation on the review of duty systems at day staffing stations in Glossop.
- 6.6.7 The revised terms of reference for the Committee as they related to the Council's housing function were considered. Proposed amendments to the Council's current Tenancy Agreement were required following a review of the way in which service charges are recouped through the rent, together with ongoing case work, complaints and trends, which will enable the Council to continue to effectively manage tenancies and protect and enhance communities. The suggested changes to the Tenancy Agreement were approved by the Executive.
- 6.6.8 Governance arrangements for the joint venture company for the delivery of waste collection, street cleansing, grounds maintenance and fleet management services were scrutinised and recommendations to the Executive were supported.
- 6.6.9 The Committee considered and noted an update around the performance of Places for People Leisure (PfPL) against the 2016/17 Annual Action Plan, together with the presentation of the proposed 2017/18 Action Plan. The finalised Strategy for Physical Activity and Sport included the results of consultation and went on to be adopted by the Executive.
- 6.6.10 The Committee scrutinised and the Executive approved a revised policy to further improve the Council's approach to tackling environmental crimes such as littering, fly-tipping and

dog fouling. Proposed changes to revised Cemetery Regulations in High Peak were also supported and adopted by the Executive.

6.6.11 Proposals for the Council to mark the centenary of the end of World War 1 during 2018 were discussed. Approval went on to be given to establish a WW1 grant budget of £20,000, with grants available to High Peak Parish and Town Councils based on the size of the Council and for events in Buxton and Glossop. A range of tools would be used to promote the commemorations.

6.6.12 Ruth Brown gave an informative presentation around the work undertaken by Blythe House Hospice, with particular reference to the Hospice at Home project.

6.6.13 There was also a presentation on Derbyshire Connect, the new way of providing non-commercial bus services for social / economic reasons by Derbyshire County Council. Concern was expressed regarding the potential for bus services to be reduced and replaced with demand responsive services in certain rural areas. The need for the Connect Service and Active Travel access to health service was also highlighted.

6.6.14 There was considerable commitment and contribution during the year from members of the Committee, as well as attendance by many representatives from outside agencies and officers. Joint working has taken place with Corporate Select Committee to enable timely decisions to be made.

6.6.15 Hardyal Dhindsa, Police and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire provided members with an update on the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner, since his election in May 2016. Craig Whyles, Service Delivery Manager for East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS) recently attended to provide members with an update on the Derbyshire Division. Also the Committee considered options for the future direction of the public space CCTV system and made recommendations to the Executive on the way forward.

6.7 Economy and Growth Select Committee – Councillor Anthony McKeown

6.7.1 The High Peak Draft Growth Strategy was updated after revisions following the consultation exercise. Consideration was given to a progress report on the actions taken and planned to enable the effective delivery of the Strategy. The Strategy went on to be approved by the Executive and made available online. Tasks outlined were absorbed into the Committee's work programme.

- 6.7.2 The High Peak Housing Portfolio was considered. Issues reported on included Growth Strategy Delivery Mechanisms, previous year completions, the assisted housing delivery programme, High Peak Housing Portfolio and the Housing Infrastructure Fund.
- 6.7.3 The draft High Peak Design Guide was presented. After consultation comments the amended design guide went on to be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document. The Committee also received an update on Right to Buy receipts and a presentation on Local Plan Annual Monitoring.
- 6.7.4 The Committee considered and commented on a summary of the Glossop Creative Industries Assessment report, which had been produced for the Council by Tom Fleming Creative Consultancy to assess the potential for the growth of the creative industry and cultural sector in Glossop.
- 6.7.5 There was an update on the findings and recommendations of the Draft Minerals and Aggregate Extraction in High Peak and Derbyshire Dales Economic Impact Assessment Report. The findings of the study and the suggested interventions to help to maximise future growth opportunities were noted.
- 6.7.6 There was also a presentation on implementing the Enterprise Growth Programme, Growth Strategy priorities, employment land monitoring, local sites, key barriers, business support and digital infrastructure.
- 6.7.7 Transport infrastructure in High Peak was discussed, with particular reference to Gamesley station, Trans-Pennine tunnel, South East Manchester Multi Modal Strategy, Fairfield Link Road, rail improvements and trails. The announcement regarding the A57/A628 Trans-Pennine programme, Mottram Moor and A57 Link Roads Option A, was discussed and the Council was requested to continue to seek a solution to transport issues on the A628 in Tintwistle and the wider implications of the proposed scheme for the local economy. A Highways England representative attended and the inclusion of climbing lanes in the scheme was added to the Council's response to the consultation.
- 6.7.8 The Committee considered long running negotiations with owner of businesses at Bingswood Industrial Estate in Whaley Bridge aimed at securing a financial commitment from the businesses to build a new bridge and associated infrastructure to improve access on the estate and reduce HGV congestion in the town centre. The report advised that following negotiations, no businesses were willing to make a contribution and members were therefore recommended that the project to build a bridge connecting the northern part of the industrial estate via a bridge

across the River Goyt be closed. The Committee recommended that Council support be switched to assisting individual landowners to bring forward a less ambitious scheme that may deliver at least some improvement to the access issues, with work continuing with existing businesses to facilitate and encourage growth, and to develop resilience to potential disruption which might be caused if the existing bridge fails.

- 6.7.9 The Committee recently considered the background on Business Improvement Districts (BIDS), as there was not yet any proposal. Presentations were received from Vision Buxton and the Opposition to Bid Scheme. There was also a presentation on Skills by Lindsay Wetton D2N2 LEP. The Committee noted and commented on the proposals in the draft National Policy Framework and agreed to submit a joint response with the Local Government association. There was a Growth and Planning presentation. Recommendations were made to the Executive to introduce a Gateway Improvements Programme to act as a catalyst to the development of strategically important Gateway Zones at the Fairfield to Station Road corridor in Buxton and the A57 western entrance to Glossop.
- 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 2017 -18.
- 6.9 Training on planning, access awareness and licensing have taken place and sessions are scheduled on Code of Conduct, safeguarding, finance and General Data Protection Regulations. There were also briefing sessions on Glossop Halls and Tameside and Glossop Clinical Commissioning Group consultation. Reports are starting to be generated on the Modern Gov. committee management system and the public are now able to automatically receive emails if set up or self-registered on the website. Technical support continues to be available as issues arise and the new system is easier to access and avoids overloading email inboxes.
- 6.10 The effectiveness of local authority overview and scrutiny was the subject of a Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government select committee inquiry. In the future guidance may be updated to take account of scrutiny's evolving role, sharing innovation and best practice, possibly engaging local academics and universities to play a greater role in local scrutiny. Scrutiny committees are encouraged to consider how the information they receive can include the views and experiences of service users and there have been good examples of this during the year.

- 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 meet 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

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

The Working Group was convened to consider the development of the Asset Management Plan. This included the operation of car parks, public conveniences, Buxton Town Hall, Glossop Halls, Pavilion Gardens, leisure centres, operational depots, condition surveys undertaken for all non-housing assets and the potential impact on capital expenditure. Meetings are on-going.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan Working Group (Councillors Barrow, Grooby, Lomax, A McKeown and G 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. It was planned for the wider housing market and housing need to inform a strategic approach to the development of the HRA business plan and housing delivery.

Issues considered included the IT systems review, outcome of the 90 day challenge around voids, radon communication plan, tenant involvement, repairs, sheltered housing delivery and neighbourhood policies on anti-social behaviour, mutual exchange, succession and assignment and tenants alterations.

The draft rent and charges policy and a plan for long term vacant properties went on to be approved by Corporate Select Committee and the Executive. Corporate Select Committee included the proposal in principal to temporarily reduce the annual minimum revenue provision (MRP) charge to £1,000,000 for a period of four years, providing an annual revenue saving of approximately £240,000. The proposed new structure for sheltered housing will also be in place for 1 April 2018

The Working Group considered a briefing note which set out the proposed capital programme for 2018/19 prior to the assessment and interpretation of the recently completed stock condition surveys. The development of some form of joint arrangements with one of the three registered providers for the delivery of the housing repairs service and the stock condition survey is to be considered in more detail.

Performance Framework Workshop (Councillors Barrow, Claff, Douglas, Fox, Grooby, Hardy, Helliwell, Lomax, A McKeown, R McKeown, Sizeland and J Wharmby)

Consideration was given to headlines from the detailed Annual Report, targets for 2017/18, reducing quarterly reporting, looking at language used and the refreshed Corporate Plan. Comments made were incorporated into the report considered by Corporate Select Committee and went on to be approved by the Executive.