

**REPORT OF THE  
CABINET / LEADER**

**PART II**

**EFFICIENCIES AND EXPENDITURE REDUCTIONS: TRANSFORMING THE COUNTY COUNCIL**

The Cabinet, at a meeting on 25 October considered a report on progress in relation to expenditure reductions and transforming the County Council in light of the spending reductions announced on 20 October 2010.

The report outlined the programme of final proposals from the efficiency and expenditure reduction workstreams to be reported to Cabinet in November and December 2010, as follows;

Reports to Cabinet - 29 November 2010

- PBRs-CCRA Merger, “sign off” and reduction programme
- Integration of professional functions
- Reducing Senior Management costs – sign-off
- Impact of the recruitment moratoria
- Contract negotiations & supply chain management cost reductions
- Business services (including “IT costs”)
- Further asset rationalisation activity
- Impact of capital expenditure reductions

Reports to Cabinet - 20 December 2010

- Broader departmental 8% savings – progress on budget discussions
- Democratic infrastructure
- Grant expenditure
- Support & administrative costs
- Learning, training & development
- Communications, marketing & publications
- Reduced costs associated with inspection & regulation
- Income & charging
- Continued impact of the “Recruitment moratoria”

The Cabinet welcomed the early savings associated with the recruitment moratorium, which would see approximately 900 posts not recruited to over one year. However, essential front line posts and other specialist roles continued to be recruited to, to ensure that crucial capacity was maintained.

This report arises from consideration of a report by the Cabinet on 25 October 2010, which is on Hantsweb at:

[http://www3.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings/advsearchmeetings/meetingsitemdocuments.htm?sta=&pref=Y&item\\_ID=2206&tab=2](http://www3.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings/advsearchmeetings/meetingsitemdocuments.htm?sta=&pref=Y&item_ID=2206&tab=2)

**LOCAL TRANSPARENCY**

The Cabinet, at a meeting on 25 October, considered a report on the action taken by the County Council in response to the Government’s proposals for increasing local transparency.

The draft structural reform plan published early in the summer by the Government includes proposals to:

- publish all local authority performance data held by central government, working with the Cabinet Office,
- release datasets held by the Department for Communities and Local Government to make councils and other bodies more accountable,
- prepare local authorities for publication, in an open and standardised format, of items of spending, contracts and tenders above £500,
- prepare local authorities for publication, in an open and standardised format, of job titles and salaries above SCS Pay Band 1 (£58,200), and
- run a public awareness campaign to encourage use and put pressure on opaque councils, including public demonstration of transparency of other local authorities.

The Cabinet agreed, as part of the drive for further local transparency, that the following information be published by the end of October 2010 (in advance of the timescales indicated by Government):

- Details of each members attendance at formal meetings
- Current members Register of Interests and gifts and hospitality received
- Details of payments over £500 for the period April to September 2010 and on a monthly basis thereafter

The Cabinet also agreed that work would continue to enable publication of the following information in line with the timescales set by the Government

- Job titles and salaries for staff at grades J and K information by the end of January 2011
- Job titles for all staff at grades A to I by the end of June 2011 (date to be confirmed)
- Details of tenders and contracts

The County Council processes 60,000 to 70,000 transactions each month, 20,000 of which are over £500. Data covering the period April to September 2010 has now been published, and publication on a monthly basis is now underway.

Members' Register of Interests and attendance at County Council meetings has also been published. The Cabinet acknowledged that attendance at County Council meetings accounted for approximately 10% of Members' workloads, and that competing demands often caused Members to be absent from County Council meetings.

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