

AT A MEETING of the ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION SELECT COMMITTEE of the COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle, Winchester on Wednesday, 26 January 2011.

**PRESENT**

Chairman:

p Councillor Sharyn Wheale

Vice-Chairman:

p Councillor Geoff Hockley

Councillors:

p Ian Beagley

p Rupert Kyrle

p Adam Carew

p Steve Rippon-Swaine

p Vaughan Clarke

p Elaine Still

p Mark Cooper

p Marilyn Tucker

p Edward Heron

a Alan Weeks

Councillor Mel Kendal, Executive Member for Environment, was also in attendance.

62. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Alan Weeks.

63. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Members were mindful that, where they believed they had a personal or personal prejudicial interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting, they should normally at the time of the debate declare their interest, and having regard to the circumstances described in paragraphs 9, 10, 11 and 12 of the County Council's Code of Conduct, consider whether to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 12 of the Code.

Councillor Edward Heron declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest under Agenda Item 5, as he is a Member of the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire.

63. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Committee held on 17 November 2010 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to a minor amendment on page 5, to read 'Councillors Adam Carew and Rupert Kyrle wished it to be formally noted that they strongly agreed with a hybrid of recommendations B and C.'

Arising thereon:

The recommendations submitted to the Executive Member for Environment regarding the Hampshire Concessionary Travel Scheme in November 2010 were accepted. The provisional government grant settlement for 2011/12 from central government was announced on 13 December 2010, where the funding allocation for Concessionary Fares was less than expected, and not sufficient to cover the cost of the basic statutory scheme. The proposed budget made provision to meet the cost of the shortfall of around £2 million and the Environment Department's proposed cash limit therefore reflected additional funding of the full £13.3 million required to support concessionary fares in 2011/12. It did mean, however, that there would be no additional funding available for enhancements. The Hampshire Concessionary Fares Scheme would therefore not be refreshed, but will remain the same as that reported to the Select Committee in November.

64. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman did not have any announcements for this meeting.

65. **REVENUE BUDGET**

66. **CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

(Items 5. and 6. in the minute book were taken together.)

The Committee received a presentation from the County Treasurer and Director of Environment on the revenue budget 2011/12 – 2014/15, and the capital programme 2011/12 through to 2014/15. Members heard:

(Take in report and presentation)

- That 2011/12 and 2012/13 would see the most significant reductions in formula grant.
- That the council tax freeze grant of 2.5% would give Hampshire County Council an additional £3 million in funding over that which would have been yielded by a 1.9% increase in council tax.
- That an extra £0.2m had been awarded to Hampshire County Council as a grant for flood management duties.
- That funding for concessionary fares had been transferred to formula grant, and would therefore be subject to any percentage reductions expected over the four-year settlement period.
- That the move to grant from supported borrowing for the Local Transport Plan has been welcomed, as this would ensure that Hampshire is able to take-up all funding allocated to it.

Following questions, Members heard:

- That the highways contract will change the balance on

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That the Select Committee receive a regular update on Environment Department efficiency savings, in order to ensure that the figures estimated in January 2011 are met.

to planned structural maintenance rather than reactive works.

- That it was disappointing that Portsmouth City Council were withdrawing from the Hampshire Safer Roads Partnership, but it was envisaged that it would continue with the remaining membership.
- That the Environment Department would soon be consulting on proposals for a review of subsidised bus services. Members were reassured that the review would aim to ensure that no areas which currently have access to public transport would be left without access to any form of passenger transport.
- That grit and grit containers will remain free of charge for those parish councils requesting them.
- That there will not be a reduction in school crossing patrols, and these staff have been excluded from the recruitment moratoria.

Councillor Elaine Still left the meeting.

Following the presentation Cllr Wheale recorded her thanks on behalf of the people of Hampshire to the Environment Department for the positive response made in the provision of services over the period of severe winter weather.

RESOLVED:

That:

- (1) the Select Committee contribute to the review of the subsidised bus service, and conduct a pre-decision scrutiny of the final decision report on this topic.
- (2) the Select Committee receive a regular update on Environment Department efficiency savings, in order to ensure that the figures estimated in January 2011 are met.

The subsequent recommendations were taken separately. A recorded vote took place.

Proposed: Councillor Edward Heron  
Seconded: Councillor Vaughan Clarke

For: Cllr Ian Beagley, Cllr Geoff Hockley, Cllr Steve Rippon-Swaine, Cllr Marilyn Tucker and Cllr Sharyn Wheale

Against: Cllr Adam Carew, Cllr Rupert Kyrle

Abstained: Cllr Mark Cooper

The recommendation was agreed.

RESOLVED:

(3) That the Select Committee agree with the recommendations as set out in paragraph 10 of the revenue budget report.

Proposed: Councillor Steve Rippon-Swaine  
Seconded: Councillor Geoff Hockley

For: Cllr Ian Beagley, Cllr Edward Heron, Cllr Steve Rippon-Swaine, Cllr Marilyn Tucker and Cllr Sharyn Wheale

Against: Cllr Rupert Kyrle

Abstained: Cllr Adam Carew, Cllr Mark Cooper

The recommendation was agreed.

RESOLVED:

(4) That the Select Committee, subject to any amendments proposed and agreed during the meeting, agree with the recommendations as set out in paragraph 14 of the capital programme report.

#### 67. **LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 3**

Hampshire County Council was required to produce a third round of the Local Transport Plan (LTP), in order to replace the second round which expires on 31 March 2011. The Director of Environment presented the report briefly to Members.

(Take in report)

#### 68. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chief Executive presented the Committee's forthcoming work programme (Item 8 in the Minute Book).  
Members heard:

(Take in work programme)

- That this would be the last update for 2010/11. The programme would be refreshed in April 2011.
- That the topics of waste and mineral priorities, county-wide Community Transport Schemes, and Members highway priorities were suggested to be added to the work programme. The Chairman would discuss these at their next planning meeting with officers.

RESOLVED:

That the work programme is agreed.

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Chairman, 12 May 2011