

Hampshire

At a Meeting of Hampshire County Council held at The Castle,
Winchester on 24 February 2011.

Chairman:

p Councillor Carol Leversha

Vice-Chairman:

p Councillor Anna McNair Scot

Councillor:	Councillor:
<i>p</i> Frederick Allgood J.P.	<i>a</i> Sam James
<i>p</i> Mrs Charlotte Bailey	<i>p</i> Andrew Joy
<i>p</i> Ian Beagley	<i>p</i> David Keast
<i>p</i> Ray Bolton	<i>p</i> Mark Kemp-Gee
<i>p</i> Alan Broadhurst	<i>p</i> Mel Kendal
<i>p</i> John Bryant	<i>p</i> Roger Kimber
<i>p</i> Ann Buckley	<i>p</i> Tim Knight
<i>p</i> Rita Burgess	<i>p</i> Rupert Kyrle
<i>p</i> Adam Carew	<i>p</i> Keith Mans
<i>p</i> Christopher Carter	<i>p</i> Peter Kent Mason
<i>p</i> Keith Chapman	<i>p</i> Alexis McEvoy
<i>p</i> Peter Chegwyn	<i>p</i> Robin McIntosh
<i>p</i> Vaughan Clarke	<i>p</i> Roz Muschamp
<i>p</i> Adrian Collett	<i>p</i> Pam Mutton
<i>p</i> Brian Collin	<i>p</i> Eric Neal
<i>p</i> Mark Cooper	<i>p</i> Frank Pearce
<i>p</i> Sam Darragh	<i>p</i> Roy Perry
<i>p</i> Brian Dash	<i>p</i> Jackie Porter
<i>p</i> Colin Davidovitz	<i>a</i> Roger Price, JP
<i>p</i> Phryn Dickens	<i>p</i> Jenny Radley
<i>p</i> Alan Dowden	<i>p</i> Stephen Reid
<i>p</i> David Drew	<i>p</i> Alan Rice, TD
<i>a</i> Peter Edgar	<i>p</i> Steve Rippon-Swaine
<i>p</i> Dr. Ray Ellis	<i>p</i> Angela Roling
<i>p</i> Adrian Evans	<i>p</i> David Simpson
<i>p</i> Keith Evans	<i>p</i> Margaret Snaith-Tempia
<i>p</i> Liz Fairhurst	<i>a</i> Elaine Still
<i>p</i> Jane Frankum	<i>p</i> Bruce Tennent
<i>p</i> Mike Geddes	<i>p</i> Tom Thacker
<i>p</i> Andrew Gibson	<i>p</i> Christopher Thomas
<i>a</i> Jonathan Glen	<i>p</i> Ken Thornber, C.B.E.
<i>a</i> Brian Gurden	<i>p</i> Marilyn Tucker
<i>p</i> David Harrison	<i>p</i> John Wall
<i>p</i> Edward Heron	<i>p</i> Alan Weeks
<i>p</i> Felicity Hindson	<i>a</i> John K. West
<i>p</i> Geoff Hockley	<i>p</i> Patricia West
<i>p</i> Keith House	<i>p</i> Sharyn Wheale
<i>p</i> Ronald Hussey	<i>p</i> Seán D. T. Woodward

168. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Edgar, Glen, Gurden, James, Price, Elaine Still and J.K. West and from Honorary Aldermen Capt. Boyle, Mrs Susan Glasspool and Porter.

169. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

All Members who believed they had a personal or prejudicial interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting were asked to declare that interest and, having regard to the circumstances described in paragraphs 9, 10, 11 and 12 of the County Council's Code of Conduct, to consider whether to leave the meeting whilst the matter is discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with paragraph 12 of the Code. The declaration should be made at the time of the relevant debate.

170. **MINUTES.**

The minutes of the Special and Ordinary meetings of the County Council held on 25 November 2010 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

There were no matters arising.

171. **DEPUTATIONS.**

The Council received a deputation from Kate Reynolds and Catherine Ovenden concerning the future of Children's Centres in Hampshire.

172. **CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS.**

The Chairman presented her report (Item 5 in the Minute Book) and welcomed Honorary Aldermen Patricia Banks, Michael Cartwright and Michael Woodhall to the meeting. The Chairman then expanded on the wide range of duties undertaken to represent and promote the County Council and its strong community leadership role and thanked her Vice-Chairman, Councillor Anna McNair Scott for her support in carrying out these duties.

In particular the Chairman reported that six Care Ambassadors had been employed by the County Council's Children's Services Department following the successful pilot project in 2010; highlighted the University of Winchester's Creative 'Spring School' project offering 15 places to young people aged 14-17 who are in Hampshire's care which aims to raise the aspirations of children in care to consider University as an achievable option; and her attendance at the AGM of the Andover Young Carers, who were recently awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

The Chairman expressed her hope that Members would show their support for the Annual Chairman's Concert on Saturday, 2 April at St Swithun's School in Winchester, which would showcase the talents of the County Council's award winning Music Service.

Finally the Chairman extended her sympathy to the victims of the floods in Australia and the earthquake in New Zealand. With sadness, the Chairman also reported the deaths of two former County Councillors Nigel Matthews and Nigel Clarke. Commander Nigel Matthews was a County Councillor between 1981 and 1985 and had represented Fareham Titchfield. Nigel Clarke was a County Councillor from 2005 to 2009 and represented Ringwood.

173. **LEADER'S REPORT.**

The Leader led tributes to former County Councillors Nigel Matthews and Nigel Clarke. The Council observed a minute's silence as a mark of respect. With sadness, the Leader also report the death of former County Treasurer, Geoffrey Price who started with the County Council in 1970 and left in 1983 on becoming the Chief Executive of Herefordshire County Council.

With considerable regret, the Leader reported the retirements of Yinnon Ezra MBE, Director of Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs after nine years with the County Council, and Alison Quant, formerly Director of Environment and since 2009, Director of Economic Development. Both Directors had made a tremendous contribution to the County Council during their years of service, in their respective areas and the Council wished them every success in the future.

It was with pleasure that the Leader reported two County Council officers had been recognised in the New Year's Honours. Mohammed Mossadaq was awarded an OBE for his work in his role as Equality Adviser and Dr Elizabeth Ogilvy Statham was awarded an OBE for her services to education.

Following the severe weather experienced during the winter months, the Leader was pleased to report that in excess of 40 compliments had been received thanking Hampshire Highways for their hard work in responding to the inclement conditions. The Leader was also pleased to report that Hampshire County Council had received the accolade of being the top performing county again for managing household waste and had been named as the leading County Council for diverting rubbish from landfill for the fifth year in succession.

The County Council's Children's Services Department had recently received the highest performance rating of 'excellent' by Ofsted for their services for children and young people. Hampshire Governor Services had also recently received its seventh award for the quality of its Customer Services and this, together with the Ofsted assessment was a notable achievement.

Finally, and with much regret the Leader announced that Councillor Margaret Snaith-Tempia had stood down from the Cabinet after 11 years as the Executive Member for Culture and Recreation. Councillor Keith Chapman would join the Cabinet to take up the portfolio. The Leader praised Councillor Snaith-Tempia for the wisdom she had displayed during some very difficult decisions taken during her time as an Executive Member. The Council thanked Councillor Snaith-Tempia for her help and support, and showed their appreciation by way of a standing ovation.

174. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 20(b).

Councillor Ken Thornber, Executive Member for Policy and Resources, answered a question from Councillor Alan Dowden concerning the continuation of funds for the Activehearts Scheme.

Councillor Roy Perry, Executive Lead Member for Children's Services, answered a question from Councillor Brian Dash concerning the Government's policy to enable the creation of Academies and Free Schools.

175. APPOINTMENTS: PENSION FUND PANEL – CO-OPTED MEMBERS

The Council considered the report of the Chief Executive (Item 8 in the Minute Book) seeking approval to make changes to the membership of co-optees on the Pension Fund Panel, to more fully represent the employers within the Hampshire Pension Fund.

Resolved:

- (a) that it was agreed to increase the number of Hampshire District Councils co-opted representatives on the Pension Fund Panel from one to two, to be allocated to North and East Hampshire and to South and West Hampshire, with effect from autumn 2011, and
- (b) that it was agreed that both Portsmouth and Southampton City Councils be invited to nominate a co-opted representative on the Pension Fund Panel instead of alternating every two years, with effect from autumn 2011.

176. REVENUE BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2011/12 AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2011/12 – 2014/15

Councillors Carew, Collin, Dash, Jane Frankum, Harrison, Margaret Snaith-Tempia, Jane Radley, Marilyn Tucker, Sharyn Wheale and Woodward declared a personal interest as members of a Children's Centre Partnership Board. Councillor Phrynnette Dickens declared a personal interest as a trustee of an independent charity, Street Reach Youth Project in Winchester and declared that a member of her family

was in receipt of a Supporting People grant. Councillor Keith House declared a personal interest to confirm that his partner works in mental health advocacy.

The Council considered the report of the Cabinet (Item 9 in the Minute Book) recommending that council tax be frozen at its 2010/11 level of £1037.88 at Band D, enabling the County Council to claim a Government grant of £13.2m for freezing its council tax. The proposed budget requirement for the general expenses of the County Council for the year beginning 1 April 2011 was £715,585,000. The proposed budget was within the cash limits set by the Cabinet. The proposals also took account of the relevant Executive Members' consideration of those guidelines and the scrutiny arrangements through the Select Committees.

In presenting the report, the Leader highlighted that the County Council had lost £31m in Government formula grant; a reduction of 14.3% and one of the highest reductions for County Councils. In addition, £15m in specific grant for Children's Services has been lost. Taking into account additional pressures and offsetting Government NHS Grant and a Council Tax freeze, the net result is the requirement of a £55m saving to balance the overall budget for 2012/13. The Leader summarised progress of the corporate efficiency workstreams, the focus of which was to reduce running costs and transform the way the County Council delivers services. These workstreams and other initiatives such as the recruitment moratoria and management reductions were realising a significant contribution to the £55m funding gap.

In respect of the County Council's democratic infrastructure (includes Members' Allowances, Members devolved budgets and support services), savings of just over £1.2m would be made by the abolishment of Hampshire Action Teams (1m) and by reducing Members devolved budgets from £10,000 to £8,000 each per annum (£156,000). A further £300,000 will be identified during the course of 2011/12 from committee and possibly decision day re-alignment.

The Leader reported that the County Council's focus would be the continued provision of care for those adults with both critical and substantial needs and to ensure that social care services meet the needs of vulnerable children and families.

In referring specifically to paragraph 15 of the Executive Summary in the Revenue Budget report, the Leader drew attention to the £2.556m that had been added to the Corporate Policy Reserve, the aim of which is to support any further high priority initiatives identified during the course of the year including to mitigate the impact of grant reductions. Accordingly, the Leader presented a number of proposals for support from this reserve:

Corporate Policy Reserve		
	£'000s	Total
Children's Services:		
Aiming High	1.000	
Voluntary Organisations	0.300	1.300
Concessionary fares – 9.00am start		0.350
Mobile Library LINK – Leigh Park & Wecock		0.060
Adult Services:		
Safe and Secure Front Line Services	0.455	
Grants to Hospices for Carers' Support	0.070	
Carer 'Take a Break' Voucher Scheme	0.100	
Carer at Home Respite Scheme	0.165	
Learning Disability Services	0.150	
Supporting Stroke	0.060	1.000
County Wide Insulation Scheme in partnership with District Councils		up to 0.400
Organisational Change Reserve		<u>3,000</u> 6,100
Additional Government Announcement since Cabinet on 11 February 2011: New Homes Bonus allocated to New Homes Infrastructure Reserve		
		1,024

The Leader moved the recommendations contained in the report together with the proposals for support from the Corporate Policy Reserve.

Councillor Keith House, seconded by Councillor Brian Dash, proposed the following amendment in accordance with Standing Order 27:

That there be an amendment to recommendation 2 of Agenda Item 9 on the revenue budget and precept for 2011/12:

a) Additions to budgets – ongoing improvements in service:

Children's Services	£'000
• Youth Service	450
- maintaining the current provision of support for youth and thereby encouraging sport and community activity and reducing anti-social behaviour.	

Adult Services	£'000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing and Wellbeing 500 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - reducing the impact of cuts to Supporting People and services for vulnerable people 	
Environment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concessionary Travel 1,325 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to recognise that existing District Council schemes reflect the different needs of communities across the County, allowing local services such as the Hythe and Gosport Ferries to be supported and retention of local benefits in many areas including pre-9.30am travel and access to free community transport. 	
Culture, Communities & Recreation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobile Library Service 60 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to restore the Mobile Children's Library, Leigh Park and Wecock 	
Policy & Resources	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grants to the Voluntary Sector 1,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to provide additional ongoing support to Hampshire's voluntary organisations to promote community activities and self-support in "the Big Society" • County Councillor Grants 156 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to restore County Councillors' grants locally to their 2010/11 level. 	
Total addition to amended budgets for ongoing improvements	3,241

NB: the amendment above was revised by Councillor House to remove under point a) a proposal for Children's Centres in favour of that proposal being considered as a separate Liberal Democrat amendment.

b)	To be financed by reductions to budgets:	£,000
		500
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in Publicity and Corporate Communications costs throughout the County Council - further reduction in corporate communications along with axeing “Hampshire Now” 	400
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff Budget - negotiate an end to “Special Recognition Payments” 	30
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Europe Budget - reduction in level of work with European bodies and associated travel 	3,154
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Efficiency Reserve - reduction in revenue transfer to the Corporate Policy Reserve for unforeseen expenditure 	156
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leader’s Grants - reduction of the Leader’s Grant fund to facilitate restoration of grants for all councillors in all communities across Hampshire 	4,240
	To finance on-going improvements in service	4,240
c)	One-off additions to budgets	
	Environment	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar PV - to develop and implement renewal energy projects on the County’s built estate, tackling climate change and generating additional revenue in future years 	10,000
	Policy & Resources	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hampshire Action Teams - to devolve funding from the New Homes Bonus to HATs to allocate to local community projects and ensure the areas that benefit are those that have seen additional development, as proposed in the Coalition Agreement 	1,024
	Total addition to amended budgets for one-off improvements	11,024

c) To be financed by use of reserves:	£'000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consolidation of Reserves 10,000 by developing a programme to consolidate reserves at £110,883,000 rather than at the planned £123,569,000, but protecting the Schools and Insurance Reserves • New Homes Bonus 1,024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to allocate the New Homes Bonus based on provisional figures from Government to ensure local projects are delivered alongside areas where development has arisen 	
To finance one-off improvements in service	11,024

Councillor Jackie Porter, seconded by Councillor Chris Thomas, proposed the following amendment in accordance with Standing Order 27:

That there be an amendment to recommendation 2 of Agenda Item 9 on the revenue budget and precept for 2011/12:

a) Additions to budgets – ongoing improvements in service:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's Services £'000 • Children's Centres 750 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - maintaining the current provision of Children's Centres across Hampshire, supporting children and young families as an investment in their future. 	
b) To be financed by reductions to budgets:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Efficiency Reserve £'000 750 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - reduction in revenue transfer to the Corporate Policy Reserve for unforeseen expenditure 	
To finance on-going improvements in service	750

The amendment proposed by Councillor Keith House was put to the vote. The majority of Members did not support the amendment and it was therefore lost. The amendment proposed by Councillor Jackie Porter was put to the vote.

In accordance with Standing Order 24 (b) a recorded vote was called for. Voting was as follows:

Supporting the amendment:

Councillors: Bailey, Broadhurst, Buckley, Carew, Chegwyn, Collett, Collin, Cooper, Darragh, Dash, Dickens, Dowden, Harrison, House, Kyrle, Mason, Porter, Radley, Roling, Simpson, Tennent, Thomas, Weeks.

Total: 23

Opposing the amendment:

Councillors: Allgood, Beagley, Bolton, Burgess, Carter, Clarke, Davidovitz, Drew, Ellis, A. Evans, K. Evans, Fairhurst, Geddes, Gibson, Heron, Hindson, Hockley, Joy, Keast, Kemp-Gee, Kendal, Kimber, Knight, Mans, McEvoy, McIntosh, Muschamp, Mutton, Neal, Pearce, Perry, Reid, Rice, Rippon-Swaine, Snaith-Tempia, Thacker, Thornber, Tucker, P. West

Total: 39

Abstentions:

Councillors: Leversha and McNair Scott.

Total: 2

The amendment was lost and accordingly it was:

Resolved:

That :

- a) the Treasurer's report under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 was taken into account in determining the budget and precept for 2011/12.
- b) the revenue budget for 2011/12 (as set out in the draft budget book circulated with the agenda papers) be approved.
- c) the total budget requirement for the general expenses of the County Council for the year beginning 1 April 2011, be £715,585,000.
- d) the County Council's Band D council tax for the year beginning 1 April 2011 be £1,037.88, as in 2010/11.

- e) the County Council's council tax for the year beginning 1 April 2011 for properties in each tax band be:

	£
Band A	691.92
Band B	807.24
Band C	922.56
Band D	1037.88
Band E	1268.52
Band F	1499.16
Band G	1729.80
Band H	2075.76

- f) precepts be issued totalling £526,426,934.20 on the billing authorities in Hampshire, requiring the payment in such instalments and on such dates set by them previously notified to the County Council, in proportion to the taxbase of each billing authority's area and determined by them and as set out below:

Basingstoke & Deane	64,655.00
East Hampshire	48,332.33
Eastleigh	44,368.15
Fareham	42,796.00
Gosport	27,595.10
Hart	37,967.18
Havant	42,925.00
New Forest	73,047.60
Rushmoor	31,671.86
Test Valley	45,875.00
Winchester	47,980.46

- g) that the proposals for one-off support from the Corporate Policy Reserve, as set out in Minute 176 above, be approved.

- h) the treasury management and annual investment strategies (as set out in Appendix 2), together with the prudential indicators for 2011/12 be approved and that the Monitoring Officer be authorised to make any changes to the terms of reference of the Audit Committee in the constitution in order to give effect to the new challenge and scrutiny role required as a result of the revised CIPFA requirements.

and in relation to the Capital Programme 2011/12 to 2013/14:

That:

- i) the capital programme for 2011/12 and the provisional programmes for 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15 be approved as set out in the attached capital programme document and subject to the conditions set out in section B.3 of the County Council's Financial Procedures on the responsibilities for managing the capital programme and, where appropriate, to the approval of the Executive Member for Policy and Resources to proposals by Executive members to retain more than a 25% share of capital receipts
- j) expenditure on preliminary design and planning work for major transport schemes be permitted when they have achieved a place in the County Council's Local Transport Plan, subject to the cost being met within existing Government allocations
- k) authority be given to incur expenditure on land purchases as follows:
 - (a) up to the sum specified in respect of sites still required for the schemes included in the capital programme for the period 2011/12 to 2014/15 provided that the relevant scheme has been the subject of a feasibility or design project appraisal approved by the relevant Executive member
 - (b) up to the amount included in the programmes for 2011/12 to 2014/15 in respect of advance and advantageous land purchases.

177. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2011/12

It was noted that as the Members' Allowances Scheme affects all of the County Council's elected Members, a general dispensation is exercised in regard to declaring a personal interest.

The Council considered the report of the Members' Allowances Panel (Item 10 in the Minute Book) setting out their recommendations for a Members' Allowances Scheme for 2011/2 having considered and taken into account a report of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

Resolved:

- (a) that Basic Allowances and SRAs be frozen at existing rates from 1 April 2011

- (b) that the Independent Appeal Panel Members Motor Vehicle Allowance (currently 57.8p per mile) be frozen for 2011/2012, but that this be investigated further by the IRP during the next 12 months
- (c) that all Members' travel allowances, with the exception of the Independent Appeal Panel Members Motor Vehicle Allowance be aligned to HMRC approved levels (currently 20p per mile for bicycles, 24p per mile for motorcycles, and 40p per mile for the first 10,000 miles and 25p per mile thereafter for motor car vehicles)
- (d) that, subject to the changes recommended at (c) above in respect of travel allowances a Members' Allowances Scheme be approved for 2011/2012 with the existing 2010/2011 rates of Members' Allowances
- (e) that the Policy and Resources Select Committee be asked to undertake a review of the Members Motor Vehicle Allowance to establish the true and marginal cost to Members of their travel on behalf of the County Council. The outcome of this investigation to be reported back to the Members' Allowances Scheme Panel and the County Council.

178. HAMPSHIRE LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The Council considered the report of the Cabinet (Item 11 in the Minute Book) setting out their recommendations in regard to the Hampshire Local Transport Strategy and Implementation Plan. In presenting the report, the Leader highlighted this was the County Council's third Local Transport Plan (LTP), comprising a long-term (20-year) strategy setting out policies and a short-term (three-year) implementation plan to cover delivery. The County Council welcomed the preparation of this further LTP.

Resolved:

That the County Council:

- (a) approved and formally adopted the third Hampshire Local Transport Plan as an element of the Council's overall policy framework,
- (b) approved making the implementation plan component of the Local Transport Plan a three-year rolling programme that is considered annually as part of the County Council's Capital and Revenue Programmes, and
- (c) approved delegation of decision-making authority to the Executive Member for Environment to make changes of a minor nature to the Local Transport Plan to reflect changes in policy, as part of a process of regular review, to ensure the Plan remains current.

179. HAMPSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY

No questions had been received pursuant to Standing Order 20(d).
The report of the Hampshire Police Authority was received.

180. HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

No questions had been received pursuant to Standing Order 20(e).
The report of the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority (HFRA) was noted.

The Leader reported that a constitutional difficulty had arisen concerning the current arrangement of a report from HFRA and answering questions on it, which he hoped to resolve with the Chairman of HFRA.

181. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

The Council received the reports of the following Executive Members and Chairmen:

- a) The Cabinet/Leader
 - Hampshire Economic Assessment
- b) Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
 - School meal prices from April 2011
 - Educational attainment in Hampshire 2010 – results and future priorities
- c) Executive Member for Recreation, Heritage and Communities
 - Concessionary fares transition arrangements
- d) Executive Member for Adult Social Care
 - Care Quality Commission (CQC) 2009/10 assessment of the performance of Hampshire County Council in commissioning services for adult social care
 - Transformation of in-house learning disability services
- e) Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
 - Inquiries received and action taken
 - Proposals to vary or develop NHS services