

AT A MEETING of the CABINET of HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held at the Castle on 4 July, 2011

**Chairman:**  
**p Councillor T. K. Thornber, CBE**

Councillors:

|                         |               |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| p K. Chapman            | p M.J. Kendal |
| p C. Davidovitz         | p K. Mans     |
| p Dr. R. J. Ellis       | P R. Perry    |
| p Felicity Hindson, MBE |               |

Also present: Councillors B. Dash, P. Edgar, K. Evans, C. Leversha, M. Tucker, P. A. West and S. Wheale

### **233 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

### **234 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were mindful that where they believed they had a personal or prejudicial interest in any matter considered at the meeting declared that interest at the time of the relevant debate and, having regard to the circumstances described in paragraphs 9, 10, 11 and 12 of the County Council's Code of Conduct, considered 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.

### **235 CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

### **236 2010/11 – END OF YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Cabinet considered a report of the County Treasurer (Item 4 in the Minute Book) providing a summary of the 2010/11 final accounts. The draft statement of accounts would be submitted for audit on the 30 June 2011 and reported to the Audit Committee in September, in conjunction with the Audit Commission's Governance report on the accounts.

The Cabinet were informed that the service cash-limited expenditure was £9.8m (0.6%) lower than budgeted against an overall budget of over £1.5bn, reflecting the strategy adopted across those services not adversely affected by the mid year grant reductions, of seeking to reduce spending in 2010/11 in preparation for major grant reductions from 2011/12 and to finance the costs of restructuring in 2011/12 and 2012/13. The position for each of the services was set out in the report.

In considering the detail of the report, the Cabinet noted that the approach to the County Council's self insurance arrangements would be reviewed. The Cabinet were advised that whilst the existing approach minimised short term costs it carried a degree of risk which was dependant upon the overall strength of the County Council's financial position, including the ability to reallocate capital programme resources to deal with exceptional unexpected losses. The County Treasurer advised that in the current financial position, the County Council was no longer as well placed to be able to mitigate those risks and that the policy was also inconsistent with the requirement for the County Council to retain responsibility for liabilities relating to past events in respects of schools becoming academies.

The Cabinet supported the recommendations set out in the report and formally recorded their appreciation to the Corporate Management Team for the early achievement of a number of savings targets across departments in unprecedented times.

The decision record is attached to these minutes as Appendix 1.

## **237 REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Executive (Monitoring Officer) (Item 5 in the Minute Book) setting out the revised Constitution and seeking Cabinet's agreement to recommend the revised Constitution to full County Council.

The draft constitution which was attached to the report responded to comments raised by the Audit Committee, at the Member briefing, and by individual Cabinet Members. The revised Constitution before Members reflected the current law and reflected in the best possible way the business protocols and procedures used to run the County Council's business.

The Cabinet noted that the draft document still required some further amendments and tidying up, and made a number of changes/suggestions, including the need for an index to the document and provision for the appointment of deputies to the Buildings, Land and Procurement Panel (BLAPP) and Regulatory Committee A. There was also a discussion about the debate procedure and timings for speeches at Council meetings.

The Cabinet were advised that the revised Constitution did not contain any changes proposed by Government in the Localism Bill. Accordingly, the Constitution would need to be revised further once proposals in the Localism Bill became law, and any consequential changes to the County Council's governance arrangements were determined.

The decision record is attached to these minutes as Appendix 2.