AT A MEETING of the CABINET of HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held at the Castle on 25 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
a Felicity Hindson, MBE	

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

238. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Felicity Hindson, MBE

239. 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.

240. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 27 June 2011 and 4 July 2011 were both confirmed as correct records.

241. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

None.

242. OPEN FOR BUSINESS – A REVIEW OF KEY STRATEGIES AND PROGRESS; BUILDING ON SUCCESS AND IMPROVEMENT

The Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Executive (Item 5 in the Minute Book) providing a summary of the County Council's performance during 2010/11 and the refreshed County Council Performance Management Framework, which replaced the previous Driving Success model.

The Cabinet noted the successes to date of a series of related Open for Business projects and strategies and welcomed the progress made against key elements of the business strategy. In particular Cabinet noted that the pilot internship programme began on 18 July which would provide further employment support to young people, especially from the most vulnerable groups for whom the Council had corporate parent responsibilities.

The direction of travel and emerging priorities set out in the report were endorsed, including the key messages:

- A modern business delivering public services
- Looking after Hampshire, looking out for you
- Committed to excellence
- Making the most of your money

It was further agreed that the performance for the first part of the year would be reported to Cabinet in Autumn 2011.

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

243. **TRANSPARENCY**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Executive (Item 6 in the Minute Book) updating Cabinet on the progress made in relation to Open Data and Transparency in the last year.

Members noted that there had been a further increase in the number of Freedom of Information requests despite increased disclosure and publication of information on the County Council's website. The Cabinet also noted in relation to senior salaries that a pay policy statement had been approved by the Employment in Hampshire County Council Committee on 20 July 2011. The statement provided an outline of the County Council's approach to senior officer and all other staff remuneration. Cabinet suggested that it may be beneficial to also disclose the salaries of senior teaching staff in Hampshire and asked that this matter be investigated further.

Appendix 1 to the report set out the proposed Policy Statement on Transparency. The key elements of the Policy were:

a) A commitment to the principles of transparency and publication of information in a format that is meaningful and can be used and shared by others.

b) A recognition that accountability and transparency are two different things and that information requires context to be useful.

The Cabinet approved the Policy on Transparency subject to the re-wording of 3 to read " The presumption of openness does not preclude the legitimate protection of information (including commercial information) whose release would invade personal privacy, breach confidentiality or damage other genuinely compelling interests".

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

244(a) **PARTNERSHIP FOR URBAN SOUTH HAMPSHIRE GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS (PUSH)**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Executive and Director of Economy, Transport and Environment (Item 7A in the Minute Book) recommending to the County Council approval of the revised constitutional arrangements relating to the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH).

The key revisions to the PUSH joint constitutional arrangements concerned:

(a) Representation - to reflect changes in the Membership following the departure of the New Forest District Council and the addition of the Isle of Wight Council

(b) The removal of the power of veto from upper tier authorities; and

(c) The apportionment of the financial contributions of the parties.

The decision record is attached to these minutes as Appendix 3.

244(b) **PARTNERSHIP FOR URBAN SOUTH HAMPSHIRE (PUSH) BUSINESS PLAN**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment (Item 7B in the Minute Book) recommending to the County Council approval of the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire Business Plan.

The Cabinet were advised that the proposed PUSH Business Plan took into account the new PUSH- Economic Development Strategy and recognised the reduced capacity for core PUSH activity and the emerging role of the Solent LEP. In particular it pointed towards a future for PUSH as a partnership focusing on strategy, planning and its role as an interface with central Government.

Cabinet acknowledged that 2011/12 was a transitional period for PUSH and therefore the Business Plan was supported at the time. However on the important issue of overall housing numbers and distribution, it was recommended that the County Council reserve its position until the completion of the revised spatial strategy work allowed a proper judgement to be made on the housing proposals based on the scale, distribution, deliverability and impact of this level of development.

The decision record is attached to these minutes as Appendix 4.

245 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL AND EFFICIENCY STRATEGY 2012/13 TO 2014/15

The Cabinet considered a report of the County Treasurer (Item 8 in the Minute Book) setting out the revenue budget strategy, financial forecasts and capital investment strategy for the next three financial years.

The Cabinet also received a presentation from the County Treasurer summarising the key highlights of the strategy and key assumptions.

In considering the strategy, the Cabinet took into account points raised by the Policy and Resources Select Committee 21 July. These points included

- Uncertainties about Health Sector funding
- Increasing fees and income levels in service area where appropriate
- Areas of high risk
- Annual salary awards for more junior staff
- Predicted inflation rates

Appendix 1 to the report set out the medium term financial strategy which described how savings of a further 8% were required in 2012/13. It was explained that the County Council was well on its way to securing the £55 million it needed to save to meet its budget gap for the current financial year. The report also explained that three further workstreams had been put into place to deliver further efficiency savings including:

- Corporate Services Review (CSR)
- Shared Services
- Modernisation and Reconfiguration of Adult Social Care Provision

The report also set out in annex 7 emerging key theme areas for capital investment over the medium to long term planning horizon. The County Treasurer advised that requirements for capital investment were significant, not only in respect of the maintenance of existing infrastructure but in relation to new investment in emerging key areas. It was noted that consideration of major capital investment decisions would take place in February 2012, taking into account available capital resources and individual business cases.

The decision record is attached to these minutes as Appendix 5.

246. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED:

The public were excluded from the meeting during the following items, as it was likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during that item there would be disclosure to them of exempt information within Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, and further that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information for the reasons set out in the reports.

247. **EFFICIENCIES, COST REDUCTION AND TRANSFORMATION – REPORT NO. FOUR**

The Cabinet considered an exempt report of the Chief Executive (Item 10 in the Minute Book) setting out the cost reduction and efficiency exercise in order to deliver the transformation of the County Council.

In considering the CSR workstream, there was discussion about the different operating models and efficiency targets. The Cabinet considered that the efficiency target for corporate services should be more stretching than the 8% reduction applied to other areas of the County Council and after some deliberation agreed that the CSR should deliver a minimum 8% reduction, subject to a further report from the Chief Executive. It was anticipated that the next stage of the CSR would be reported to Cabinet in October.

The decision record is attached to these minutes as Appendix 6.

248. **MODERNISATION AND RECONFIGURATION OF IN-HOUSE ADULT SERVICES**

The Cabinet considered an exempt report of the Director of Adult Services (Item 11 in the Minute Book) setting out the findings of a project board set up to review the current state of in-house services and identify opportunities for modernisation and transformation.

The Cabinet endorsed the preferred direction of travel as set out in Section 9 of the exempt report and noted that a detailed business case would be submitted to Cabinet in October.

The decision record is attached to these minutes as Appendix 7.