

AT A MEETING of the CABINET of HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held at the Castle on 24 January 2011.

Chairman:
p Councillor T. K. Thornber, CBE

Councillors:

p C. Davidovitz	a K. Mans
p Dr. R. J. Ellis	p R. Perry
p Felicity Hindson, MBE	a Mrs. M. D. Snaith-Tempia
p M.J. Kendal	

Also present with the agreement of the Chairman: K. Chapman, B Dash, P. Edgar, K. Evans, Mrs. M. Tucker and Mrs. S. Wheale.

184. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors K. Mans and Mrs. M. D. Snaith-Tempia.

185. 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.

186. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 December 2010 were confirmed as a correct record.

187. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

188. OPEN FOR BUSINESS: THE ALIGNMENT OF POLICY WITH RESOURCES

The Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Executive (Item 5 in the Minute Book) on the repositioning of the County Council's services in relation to existing and new policy development. The Cabinet welcomed the report and acknowledged that the Local Area Agreement had been central to partnership working in the past and many significant service

improvements had been delivered. The County Council would need to continue to provide and develop its services in challenging circumstances in relation to reduced funding. It was important that alternative ways of working in partnership with district councils, neighbouring county councils, the voluntary and community sector, the various Local Enterprise Partnerships and National Park Authorities be explored. Therefore, opportunities for establishing trading companies and shared services were being explored.

During the discussion, the Cabinet emphasised the many opportunities for reviewing and refreshing the Council's partnership working in relation to provision of care, health and wellbeing, education and skills, culture and quality of life, transport infrastructure and housing as well as opportunities for economic development. In conclusion, the Cabinet welcomed the proposed review process to produce a revised policy framework around which future capacity and resources would be organised.

The Cabinet adopted the recommendations set out in the report. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 1.

189. **HAMPSHIRE ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Economic Development (Item 6 in the Minute Book) on the proposed final Hampshire Economic Assessment following the consultation process. The Director explained that 31 formal responses to the consultation had been received, each containing a number of points and those made by a number were set out in the report. The report was being amended in response where appropriate and proportionate in resource terms. Some requests would be picked up in future work. A new section had been added to summarise the conclusions on priorities for action arising from the assessment and these had previously been considered by Hampshire Economic Board. The Director suggested that the Assessment, once approved, be updated annually with a major review planned in three to five years.

The Cabinet welcomed the Assessment, which provided a sound basis for future strategic and district level planning. The Cabinet emphasised the Council's pivotal role in delivering a skilled local workforce for the businesses of Hampshire and improving the skills of young people. It was also noted that approximately 30% of the Hampshire area would not benefit from superfast broadband being delivered by the market and the Cabinet emphasised the need for the Council to intervene to reduce this.

The Cabinet adopted the recommendations set out in the report. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 2.

190. **OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORK EXPERIENCE, TRAINING AND INTERNSHIPS**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Human Resources (Item 7 in the Minute Book) on the current organisational arrangements supporting the employment and preparation for employment of young people. The Director explained that the Council had a good work experience scheme for 14-16 year olds, having placed 1700 young people in two week work placements in the previous year, and that the pilot apprenticeship scheme had been successful with a high retention rate. The Director advised that work was underway to develop a better school leavers scheme and extend the apprenticeship scheme, as detailed within the report.

The Cabinet welcomed the proposals. It was noted that approximately 17% of school leavers fell into the not in education, employment or training (NEETs) category and therefore a new school leavers scheme would be beneficial. The Cabinet also noted that a higher number, approximately 35%, of care leavers fell into the NEETs category. Therefore, the Cabinet discussed the potential to establish an employment scheme for care leavers and young people in kinship care, and asked the Director to bring forward a report to a future meeting on proposals and a criteria for a scheme which would provide training and work experience for up to 40 care leavers (including those in kinship care). It was suggested that initial funding of up to £600,000 be identified from the council tax second home reserve.

The Cabinet adopted the recommendations set out in the report, subject to the above additional requirement in respect of an apprenticeship and work experience scheme for care leavers. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 3.