

AT A MEETING of the CABINET of HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held at the Castle on 11 February 2011.

Chairman:
p Councillor T. K. Thornber, CBE

Councillors:

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

Also present with the agreement of the Chairman: A. Dowden, K. Evans, P. Edgar, K. House, Mrs C. Leversha, Mrs M. Tucker and Mrs P. West.

191. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors K Chapman and Mrs S Wheale.

192. 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.

193. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2011 were confirmed as a correct record.

194. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

195. REVENUE BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2011/12

The Cabinet considered a report of the County Treasurer (Item 5 in the Minute Book) proposing recommendations to the County Council on the setting of the 2011/12 budget and council tax.

During the County Treasurer's presentation to Cabinet, the following key points were highlighted;

- Total overall funding gap of £55m for 2011/12
- 25% reduction to the community safety grant and £1.2m net loss on funding for concessionary fares despite an additional £0.4m following consultation
- The 2010/11 budget was revised to include an additional £3.7m for children's services and £2.2m for winter maintenance as a result of the severe weather experienced in 2010.
- The breakdown of 8% cash reductions for 2011/12 by portfolio and specific work stream.
- The workforce implications of a 1171 full time equivalent post reduction in the establishment by March 2012.
- Cash levels per pupil had been maintained, but without an inflationary uplift it would be challenging for schools.
- Budget growth in respect of looked after children of £0.25m and children's social workers of £0.35m

The Chief Executive explained that the £55m savings strategy was designed to extract as much as possible from overheads and central support. The success of the work stream programmes was key to reducing overheads and there would be a significant reduction in capacity of senior management with a loss of 25%. There was much work to undertake in the coming months and it was very important that underperformance was limited as this would impact on future years.

The Chairman thanked the Chief Executive and County Treasurer for their work in preparing the budget and committing to delivering a very challenging budget reduction over the coming year. The Cabinet also expressed gratitude to all Hampshire County Council staff for their contribution to the proposed savings, either through reduced recruitment, changes to premia payments and travel claims or changes in working practices as a result of a smaller workforce. The dedication of the County Council's staff to continue to deliver excellent services and protect frontline services during challenging times was admirable and the Cabinet was appreciative.

The Cabinet welcomed the one-off grant funding to enable a council tax freeze for 2011/12. During the discussion, it was noted that one of the largest burdens on the County Council was the transfer of the concessionary fares scheme with funding below that required to run the scheme at the government statutory level. However, additional corporate funding would be built in to enhance the scheme for disabled users, which was the highest priority outcome from the recent consultation. It was also noted that £16m per year would be invested in the road network over the next five years. Consultations on savings proposals for children's services had recently been launched which included changes to home to school transport and the way children's centres were operated. The budget for children's social care would be enhanced, thus protecting the most vulnerable children.

The Cabinet welcomed the £12m budget contribution from the health service to local authorities, which it was expected would lead to better partnership working and joint delivery of services. The Cabinet congratulated Adult Services on its annual assessment having achieved a judgement of good overall with several excellent features and Children's Services on its annual assessment having achieved an Ofsted judgement of performing excellently.

The Cabinet considered the recommendations set out in the report, which it adopted, with the addition of the following approval:

The 'passporting' in 2011/12 of the new Inshore Fisheries and Conservation grant (£204,000) and the reduction of £262,000 in the Community Safety grant'

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

196. **CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2011/12 TO 2014/15**

The Cabinet considered a report of the County Treasurer (Item 6 in the Minute Book) on the proposed capital programme for 2011/12 to 2014/15. The Cabinet welcomed the government's new approach to capital investment which would see it making capital allocations, rather than the existing arrangements in respect of supported borrowing. The Cabinet emphasised the Council's commitment to the economy of Hampshire and its capital programme would see the Council continue to repair roads, rationalise its estate and create new and improved facilities to serve the residents of Hampshire and provide employment opportunities across the county through contracts and sub-contracts with private enterprises.

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

197. **HAMPSHIRE LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Environment (Item 7 in the Minute Book) on the proposed third Hampshire Local Transport Plan (LTP). The Plan set out a 20 year long-term single transport strategy for the whole of Hampshire with a three year detailed implementation plan. The Hampshire-wide plan covers both the county-wide transport priorities and three geographically-based area strategies. The implementation section of the LTP would be considered by Council annually alongside the capital programme, as part of the Council's overall budget process.

The Cabinet welcomed the proposed LTP and emphasised its importance to the economy of Hampshire. During the discussion Cabinet acknowledged the successful partnership working with both Southampton and Portsmouth City Councils on integrated transport arrangements.

Through Transport for South Hampshire excellent relationships had been established with bus and train operators and the airport and it was anticipated that the arrangements could be duplicated for the whole of Hampshire in order to explore further partnership arrangements and strengthen the LTP. It was agreed that appropriate reference to Market Towns be added to the South Hampshire Area Strategy.

The Cabinet adopted the recommendations set out in the report. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 3.