

AT A MEETING of the ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION SELECT COMMITTEE of the COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle, Winchester on Tuesday, 17 January 2012.

PRESENT

Chairman:
p Councillor Sharyn Wheale

Vice-Chairman:
p Councillor Geoff Hockley

Councillors:

p Ian Beagley	p Rupert Kyrle
p Adam Carew	p Steve Rippon-Swaine
p Vaughan Clarke	p Elaine Still
p Mark Cooper	p Marilyn Tucker
p Edward Heron	p Alan Weeks

Councillor Mel Kendal, Executive Member for Environment and Transport, was also in attendance.

99. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies were received.

100. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

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

Councillor Alan Weeks declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest following discussions under Agenda Item 6, as he is an electric car owner.

101. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Committee held on 8 November 2011 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Arising thereon:

A report was taken to the 19 December Cabinet on the Solar Photovoltaics programme, where it was agreed that the project be suspended, and the business case be kept under review going into the future. This decision was made following the Government proposal to reduce the Feed-in Tariff. Nationally, a legal judgement was won by a group of companies and environmental charities, where it was agreed that changing the tariffs before the end of an official consultation period was "legally flawed". The Government is appealing this decision, and an update will be received by the Committee when the outcomes of any further judgement are understood.

Planning is underway for the initial meeting of the 'Parking on grass verges, footpaths and pavements' working group. The current policy was circulated to Members prior to the Christmas break. Confirmation had been received that the following Members would be part of this group:

- Councillor Adam Carew
- Councillor Marilyn Tucker
- Councillor Alan Weeks
- Councillor Sharyn Wheale

102. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman did not have any announcements for this meeting.

103. **REVENUE BUDGET**

104. **CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

(Items 5. and 6. in the minute book were taken together.)

The Committee received a presentation from the County Treasurer and Director of Environment on the revenue budget 2012/13, and the capital programme 2012/13 through to 2015/16. Members heard:

(Take in report and presentation)

- That the Economy, Transport and Environment Department, in addition to the savings required to meet the 8% efficiencies target, in line with other areas of the Council, the Department planned to make a further in year saving of £1.9m, which it was proposed to carry forward towards meeting several significant costs of change over the next year arising from delivering the efficiency savings, in line with the corporate approach previously approved by Cabinet.
- That provision was being made for possible funding needed to meet concessionary fares appeals, which were predicted to be closed in 2011/12, but will now not end before 2012/13. This cost was originally budgeted for in the 2011/12 concessionary fares allocation, and

has rolled over from this time.

- That the Department has been successful over the previous year in attracting higher than expected levels of capital funding, which has included grant aid, competitive grant wins following bidding, and the allocation of unexpected additional funding from Central Government. The County Council is currently working, with partner authorities under 'Transport for South Hampshire' banner on the submission of a detailed business case required to draw down an additional £19m of funding over three years for sustainable transport projects in southern Hampshire.
- That the economic development section has a cash limit of £1.397m for 2012/13, £400k of which has been rolled over from 2011/12 to meet the 'costs of change' arising from reviewing the service, and any structure changes.
- That Hampshire County Council understands the importance of working closely with the new Local Enterprise Partnerships, and has recently become the accountable body for the Enterprise M3 Local Enterprise Partnership's Growing Places Fund, worth over £14m.
- That the savings for the Economy, Transport and Environment Department in 2012/13 are predominantly made up of the full year effect of savings proposals implemented during 2011/12. The new savings proposals involve contract savings from the street lighting Private Finance Initiative and Household Waste Recycling Centres contracts, and the removal of HCC funding for the former safer roads partnership activities, which are now financed from driver training income through the Hampshire Constabulary.. There will not be any additional redundancies in the Department to make these savings.
- That the Department has been looking at ways to share or sell its services, and is currently investigating opportunities.

Following questions, Members heard:

- That the Department has been working in conjunction with Property Services and Facilities Management to put into action the Carbon Management Plan.
- That savings were being proposed in the Street Lighting Private Finance Initiative because the County Council has been asked to adopt fewer additional non-highway authority assets than it planned for when constructing the original proposals. However, funding still remains to cover Ministry of Defence lighting likely to be adopted by the County Council when it moves out of the Whitehill/Bordon area. The County Council would expect developers to meet the cost of street lighting in new housing areas.
- The bus rapid transit project remains on time and on budget.

- That the current review of Household Waste Recycling Centres is in two phases, initially focusing on renegotiating contracts to take account of increasing commodity prices to deliver efficiency savings for the 2012/13 budget. It will look at existing or further provision in the next phase later in 2012.
- That the Department is currently exploring the way forward regarding electric car charging points. A report will be brought back to the Committee when appropriate.

RESOLVED:

That the Select Committee agree with the recommendations as set out in paragraph 9 of the revenue budget report, and paragraph 15 of the capital programme report.

105. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chief Executive presented the Committee's forthcoming work programme (Item 7 in the Minute Book).
Members heard:

(Take in work programme)

- That this would be the last update for 2011/12. The programme would be refreshed in April 2012.
- That the following topics be considered by the Chairman for the Committee's work programme in 2012/13:
 - Solar Photovoltaic update
 - Unadopted roads and street lighting
 - Community Infrastructure Levy update
 - Biodiversity strategy action plan
 - Hampshire Natural Partnership
 - Manual for streets

RESOLVED:

That the work programme is agreed.

Chairman, 3 April 2012