

AT A MEETING of the CABINET of HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle on 3 February 2012.

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	p S. Reid

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

313. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

314. 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.

315. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2012 were confirmed as a correct record.

316. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

317. REVENUE BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2012/13

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 2012/13 revenue budget, precept and council tax. The Chairman reminded the Cabinet of its decision, following the Comprehensive Spending Review announcement of 2010, to plan a programme of cost reductions and efficiency savings to deliver four years of savings over two years. 2012/13 was the second of the two years.

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

- The County Council was in the lowest banding for government grant formula calculations and therefore had received the highest formula grant reductions.
- The council tax grant for 2012/13 was for one year only and would not be repeated the following year.
- New contingencies totalling £20m had been planned to ensure stability of the organisation in the event of any cash flow challenges. However, exceptionally high performance had been achieved and the majority of contingency funds could be released for one-off purposes.
- Although significant success had been achieved during the first year of the cost reduction programme, the second year would be more challenging with different aspects of the budget targeted for savings.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Alan Dowden addressed the Cabinet regarding the Adult Services aspect of the revenue budget. He asked the Cabinet to reconsider the homecare charging policy in relation to clients requiring two carers. He believed the charges were unfair for a small number of clients as he was aware of a few individuals whose homecare charges had risen by up to 100%.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Dowden for his comments. It was confirmed that the area was receiving attention. Adult Services had explored the two carer situation and was looking at whether family carers could be helped to manage with additional training.

During consideration it was noted that the County Council had made a commitment not to make cuts at the direct point of delivery of services that would impact on schools or the lives of people needing care. Staff numbers had been reduced through a recruitment freeze and a successful voluntary redundancy scheme, efficiencies made and contract costs reduced significantly. The proposed budget underpinned that commitment with the planned savings and cost reductions from further efficiencies and the transformation programme. The Cabinet therefore adopted the recommendations set out within the report. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 1.

318. **CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2012/13 TO 2014/15**

The Cabinet considered a report of the County Treasurer (Item 6 in the Minute Book) on the proposed capital programme for 2012/13 to 2014/15 for recommendation to Council.

The Cabinet agreed the proposed capital programme which would see almost £600m invested within the local economic area of Hampshire over a three year period, contributing to new jobs and prosperity. There would be benefits to extra care housing and school pupil places. The Cabinet also welcomed the proposed investment of £20m for the provision of broadband based on a minimum 90% coverage model for Hampshire. It was noted that alternative solutions were being piloted in particularly remote areas which could see coverage raised closer to 100%.

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