

AT A MEETING of the CABINET of HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held at the Castle on 10 September 2012.

Chairman:
p Councillor T. K. Thornber, CBE

Councillors:

p K. Chapman	p M.J. Kendal
p C. Davidovitz	a 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 G. Burgess, B Dash, P. Edgar, K House, C. Leversha, J Porter and M. Tucker.

362. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor K. Mans.

363. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter considered at the meeting they must declare that interest at the time of the relevant debate and, having regard to the circumstances described in Part 3, Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Non-Pecuniary interest in a matter being considered at the meeting they considered whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 2 of the Code, considered whether it was appropriate to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

364. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

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

365. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

366. HAMPSHIRE MINERALS AND WASTE PLAN

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment (Item 5 in the Minute Book) providing a progress update on proposed changes to the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan (HMWP)

following the public hearing. The Director explained that the majority of proposed changes were minor in type and did not change the thrust of the HMWP. The Director also explained that the complete schedule of changes was not appended to the report but was available online (<http://consult.hants.gov.uk/portal>), and that the document would be widely available as part of the forthcoming consultation. The Director also sought delegated authority to ask the Inspector for a suspension, if needed, to avoid any problems with the delay of revocation of the South East Plan. Without the HMWP in place, planning applications would be subject to proposals in the current South East Plan which was a weaker and somewhat more dated framework against which development would be assessed and managed.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Adrian Bates, a resident of Micheldever addressed the Cabinet. Residents of Micheldever had learned of a commercial interest to use a piece of land by Micheldever station as a waste treatment site. He asked that in drafting of the HMWP the land be excluded from use as a waste treatment site. He felt that treatment of waste could produce potentially toxic and hazardous gases, oils and ash. He also believed that the site was potentially dangerous to build on because of the legacy of the past use for oil storage in area.

The Chairman thanked Mr Bates for his comments.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Keith House and Councillor Jackie Porter addressed the Cabinet and asked for the proposed timescales for the consultation, Inspector's report and the final approval. The Director explained that the public consultation (8 weeks) would be concluded in December, with collated responses and a comprehensive schedule for proposed changes issued to the Inspector by February for consideration. If the Inspector chose to re-open the hearing this could potentially take place during February or March with conclusion of his report after this; he expected the County Council to be able to consider the report in May 2013 at the earliest.

Cllr House believed that some of the proposed changes were fundamental issues and he hoped they would be tested by the Inspector at a re-opened hearing. He also commented that he had found the process of the public hearing useful and challenging. However, he felt that the HMWP would not meet the needs of the residents of Hampshire over the following 10 years, even if it was judged to be technically sound. Finally, he agreed that the South East Plan should be formally revoked as a matter of urgency.

Councillor Porter explained that at the time of the initial consultation, she did not have any concerns regarding the HMWP and therefore did not respond. However, since then a new site had come forward and she was disappointed that there was now no opportunity for her to make representations. She also supported the potential suspension of the hearing to reduce the risks associated with the non revocation of the South East Plan.

In response, the Director emphasised that the rules around representations were that of the Inspector and not within the gift of the County Council to amend. However, he advised that the forthcoming consultation would allow for new representations on the changes.

In responding to comments, the Cabinet explained that the Plan dealt with potential provision for minerals and waste sites but did not guarantee any planning permission for any sites. Any permission would need to be sought through the usual planning processes. It was also noted that there was a possibility of a small shortfall in aggregate supply towards the end of the plan period, which could be addressed without allocating any new sites or extensions.

The Cabinet also heard that the Inspector had recognised that the HMWP was generally sound, but that some fine tuning was required and it agreed the proposed changes for recommendation to the County Council. The Cabinet was concerned that the South East Plan had not yet been revoked. However, it considered that the emerging HMWP would be a material consideration that the planning process could take into account as long as it was progressing and moving forward.

The Cabinet adopted the recommendations set out in the report, with the following addition:

That Cabinet requests the Secretary of State to revoke the South East Plan as a matter of urgency to avoid a hiatus whereby the County Council has a sound Plan but cannot finalise it.

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

367. **CAPITAL PROGRAMME – TFSH LOCAL SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT FUND**

The Cabinet considered and approved a report of the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment (Item 6 in the Minute Book) on additional capital resources following a successful bid to the Department for Transport's Local Sustainable Transport Fund. It was noted that there was no possibility to carry over Government funds from year to year on this particular programme.

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