

AT A MEETING of the Cabinet of HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held at the Castle on 28 October 2013.

Chairman:
p Councillor Roy Perry

Councillors:

p	Keith Chapman	p	Mel Kendal
p	Peter Edgar	p	Keith Mans
p	Liz Fairhurst	p	Stephen Reid
p	Andrew Joy	p	Seán Woodward

Also present with the agreement of the Chairman: Councillors Ray Bolton, Keith Evans, Andrew Gibson, Tony Hooke, and Pat West.

25. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Keith House.

26. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All Members who believe they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting must declare that interest and, having regard to the circumstances described in Part 3, Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter is discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore, all Members with a Non-Pecuniary Interest in a matter being considered at the meeting should consider whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5 Paragraph 2 of the Code, consider whether it is appropriate to leave the meeting while the matter is discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

Councillor Woodward declared a non-pecuniary interest as Chairman of the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire, in relation to item 8 in the Minute Book (Minute 32 refers).

27. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 September 2013 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

28. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. On behalf of the Cabinet, he expressed his appreciation to officers, including those colleagues from the District Councils in Hampshire for their response to the recent high winds.

The Chairman clarified recent events relating to the resignation of Councillor Anna McNair-Scott as Executive Member for Adults Services in the following statement:

“Specific concerns were brought to my attention on Wednesday 16 October that there might be issues with Cllr McNair Scott’s declaration of interests. These I immediately referred to the Chief Executive of the County Council and Cllr McNair Scott in order to clarify. She realised that there were inadvertent omissions in her declaration. At the first opportunity I had to meet with Anna McNair Scott, which was on Friday 18 October, on her return from the Adult and Children’s Social Care Conference in Harrogate, which she had been attending, I discussed these matters with her.

Anna at once offered me, as Leader of the County Council, her resignation from the Cabinet. She expressed her deep regret at her oversight in failing to provide a complete disclosure of interests, as required in accordance with the County Council’s Members’ Code of Conduct. Cllr McNair Scott’s decision to resign was not, in any way, as a result of a conflict of interest.

Cllr McNair Scott has since completed the process of updating her register of interests, and a copy of the updated register is now published on the Council’s website.

I advised the Chief Executive of the appointment of Cllr Liz Fairhurst as Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health last week. Cllr Fairhurst was already the Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing, so this provide an excellent opportunity to bring together social care and Health services under one portfolio.”

With reference to a recent correspondence, the Chairman offered his support to Mohamed Ansar, who was a robust defender of tolerance between religious groups and known to many in the County Council as a result of his work.

The Chairman also confirmed that he had attended the opening of two new schools in Hampshire in the previous week, one in Whiteley and one in Andover. Both schools had been built to meet the needs of the respective local communities

29. TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-YEAR MONITORING REPORT 2013-14

The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Corporate Resources (Item 5 in the Minute Book) regarding treasury management activities.

It was noted that the national economy was starting to grow, however inflation of over two per cent continued to pose challenges. The Director of Corporate Resources confirmed that all borrowing was within the prudential limits.

It was confirmed that the recommendation at 7.2 in the report was for the Cabinet to recommend that County Council give the approvals detailed. The Cabinet approved the recommendations set out in the report on that basis. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 1.

30. TRANSFORMING THE COUNCIL TO 2015 – REPORT NO. 2

The Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Executive (Item 6 in the Minute Book regarding the programme of transformation to 2015.

The report was introduced and it was explained that this was one part of an enormous task to re-shape the organisation and therefore was not easy, however it was necessary in order to best position the Council for the pressures ahead, especially in relation to the challenges relating to school places and the provision of Adult Social Care. It was confirmed that the programme of change needed to continue and that based on the previous pattern of staff reduction, it was anticipated that high morale would be maintained. Inaction was not an option as these measures were essential to avoid the service cuts that were facing other Councils.

It was confirmed that the proposals were likely to affect approximately 1000 jobs and it was explained that this would be through a combination of means, including natural turnover and voluntary redundancy. Other savings would be achieved via reductions in external spend as a result of more efficient procurement and greater use of technology.

With the agreement of the Chairman, Councillor Tony Hooke spoke on the item:

Councillor Hooke claimed that the proposals would directly affect the delivery of frontline services and would be a further blow to the already low staff morale as a result of people working long hours and in fear of their jobs. He highlighted the upward trend in GDP and urged consideration be given to that before going forward. Councillor Hooke announced that an alliance of the UKIP and Labour Groups, with the Unite Union were preparing an alternative to the proposals and asked Cabinet to reject the recommendations.

Cabinet discussed the issues raised in the report further, in particular the significance of the national debt and the likely continued pressure on public sector budgets, despite growth in GDP. Cabinet Members also felt confident that on the whole, staff morale was high and noted that transformation was providing opportunities for a number of staff to gain valuable experience and progress their careers.

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

31. **THE HAMPSHIRE PARTNERSHIP**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Executive (Item 7 in the Minute Book) regarding the establishment of the Hampshire Partnership.

The work of the Hampshire Senate was recognised as the foundation of the Partnership and it was noted that the change in name reflected the renewed commitment to working together across the County. It was confirmed that all Hampshire Districts were now on board and the positive relations with other partners continued.

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

32. **UPDATE ON THE PARTNERSHIP FOR URBAN SOUTH HAMPSHIRE BUSINESS PLAN (2013 - 2015)**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment (Item 8 in the Minute Book) regarding the business plans of the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire.

The background to the report and to the nature and activity of the Partnership was outlined. An amendment to the second recommendation was proposed and agreed.

The Cabinet approved the recommendations set out in the report, incorporating the agreed revision. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 4.

33. **UPDATE ON TRANSPORT FOR SOUTH HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT BUSINESS PLAN (2013 - 2015) AND THE PROPOSED RATIFICATION OF SOLENT TRANSPORT.**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment (Item 9 in the Minute Book) regarding the business plans of Transport for South Hampshire and the Isle of Wight and the proposed ratification of Solent Transport.

The membership of the joint Committee was confirmed and the relationship between the Committee and the Solent Local Transport Board outlined with regards the proposed merger into Solent Transport. Cabinet welcomed the proposals and hoped that partnership working would reinforce a commitment to infrastructure across the area.

The Cabinet approved the recommendations set out in the report. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 5.