

Hampshire

At a Meeting of Hampshire County Council held at The Castle,
Winchester on 28 November 2013.

Chairman:

p Councillor Ken Thornber, CBE

Vice-Chairman:

p Councillor Colin Davidovitz

Councillor:	Councillor:
<i>p</i> Phil Bailey	<i>p</i> Andrew Joy
<i>p</i> John Bennison	<i>p</i> David Keast
<i>p</i> Ray Bolton	<i>p</i> Mark Kemp-Gee
<i>p</i> Ann Briggs	<i>p</i> Mel Kendal
<i>p</i> Graham Burgess	<i>p</i> Rupert Kyrle
<i>p</i> Rita Burgess	<i>p</i> Chris Lagdon
<i>a</i> Adam Carew	<i>p</i> Peter Latham
<i>p</i> Christopher Carter	<i>p</i> Warwick Lovegrove
<i>p</i> Roz Chadd	<i>p</i> Martin Lyon
<i>p</i> Keith Chapman	<i>p</i> Keith Mans
<i>p</i> Peter Chegwyn	<i>p</i> Fiona Mather
<i>p</i> Charles Choudhary	<i>p</i> Robin McIntosh
<i>p</i> Vaughan Clarke	<i>p</i> Anna McNair Scott
<i>p</i> Adrian Collett	<i>p</i> Andy Moore
<i>p</i> Criss Connor	<i>p</i> Frank Pearce
<i>p</i> Mark Cooper	<i>p</i> Roy Perry
<i>p</i> Ferris Cowper	<i>p</i> Jackie Porter
<i>p</i> Shaun Cully	<i>p</i> Roger Price, JP
<i>p</i> Alan Dowden	<i>p</i> Stephen Reid
<i>p</i> Peter Edgar	<i>p</i> Alan Rice, TD
<i>p</i> Jacqui England	<i>a</i> George Ringrow
<i>p</i> Keith Evans	<i>p</i> Steve Rippon-Swaine
<i>p</i> Liz Fairhurst	<i>p</i> Timothy Rolt
<i>p</i> Philip Fawkes	<i>a</i> Frank Rust
<i>p</i> Ray Finch	<i>p</i> David Simpson
<i>p</i> Jane Frankum	<i>a</i> Patricia Stallard
<i>p</i> Andrew Gibson	<i>p</i> Mark Staplehurst
<i>p</i> Jonathan Glen	<i>p</i> Elaine Still
<i>p</i> Chris Greenwood	<i>a</i> Bruce Tennent
<i>p</i> Brian Gurden	<i>p</i> Tom Thacker
<i>p</i> David Harrison	<i>p</i> Martin Tod
<i>p</i> Marge Harvey	<i>p</i> Malcolm Wade
<i>p</i> Edward Heron	<i>p</i> John Wall
<i>p</i> Geoff Hockley	<i>a</i> John West
<i>p</i> Tony Hooke	<i>p</i> Patricia West
<i>p</i> Keith House	<i>p</i> Sharyn Wheale
<i>p</i> Rob Humby	<i>p</i> Chris Wood
<i>p</i> Roger Huxstep	<i>p</i> Seán D. T. Woodward

42. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Adam Carew, George Ringrow, Frank Rust, Patricia Stallard, Bruce Tennant and John West.

43. **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.

44. **MINUTES.**

The minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on 19 September 2013 were confirmed as a correct record subject to noting in the last paragraph of Minute 39 that prior to the Motion being put to the vote, a proposal to conclude the debate was moved in accordance with Standing Order 20.5. The Minutes were signed by the Chairman.

45. **DEPUTATIONS.**

The Council received a deputation from Mrs Bridget Willoughby who spoke on behalf of residents in Brooks Green, Ecchinswell regarding traffic calming measures.

46. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

The Chairman reported on the wide range of duties undertaken to represent and promote the County Council and its strong community leadership role. A full list of engagements had been circulated and was available on the website <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings> (item search 5465).

In particular the Chairman highlighted a visit by the Duke of Edinburgh to the Mary Rose Museum; the Service of Remembrance for Members and staff; presentation of BEM medals by the Lord Lieutenant to four people from Hampshire and the Schools Day Service in the Cathedral. The Chairman also reported on a very successful weekend event for 29 Young Carers at the Calshot Activity Centre.

The Chairman's full announcements are attached to these Minutes as Appendix 1.

47. LEADER'S REPORT.

The Leader presented his report which is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 2. In particular the Leader reported on a meeting with the Secretary of State for Local Government and Communities in the House of Commons on 15 October; the signing of the Southampton and Portsmouth City Deal; the 7th Annual Interfaith Lecture and highlighted a number of National Awards to the County Council. In conclusion the Leader reported that after 20 years of service Dame Mary Fagan, Lord Lieutenant for Hampshire would be retiring next year and Members would be advised in due course of the events to mark Dame Mary's service to the people of Hampshire.

48. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 16.1.1.

The list of Questions submitted in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.1. is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 3. Executive Members responded to nine of the Questions submitted in the time permitted (Standing Order 8.9). A proposal pursuant to Standing Order 20.6 to suspend Standing Orders to allow the remaining Questions to be taken at the meeting was put to the vote and lost therefore responses to the remaining Questions would be circulated to all Members in writing in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.5. In conclusion, the Leader offered to meet with the Minority Group Leaders to discuss the effectiveness of Council meetings and emphasised the importance of following the procedures set out in the Council's Constitution, as approved by full Council, to ensure good governance.

49. APPOINTMENTS.

The Council considered a report from the Chief Executive (Item 8 in the Minute Book) setting out the Leader's proposed changes of membership to committees and panels of the County Council and seeking Council's approval to delegate authority to the Conduct Advisory Panel to assist in the recruitment of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP). In presenting the report, the Leader confirmed that Councillor Anna McNair Scott would continue to serve on the Health and Wellbeing Board.

RESOLVED:

That:

- (a) the appointments detailed in section 1 of the report be approved.
- (b) authority be delegated to the Conduct Advisory Panel to assist in the recruitment of members of the IRP and to make recommendations to the County Council on any such appointment.

- (c) authority be delegated to the Head of Governance to amend the Constitution in respect of the responsibilities of the Conduct Advisory Panel, to give effect to the recommendation at (b) above.

50. **CHANGES IN RESPONSIBILITY FOR EXECUTIVE AND SCRUTINY FUNCTIONS.**

The Council considered a report from the Cabinet (Item 9 in the Minute Book) setting out changes in responsibility for Executive and Scrutiny functions. In presenting the report the Leader confirmed that the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee remains the appropriate committee to scrutinise the decisions of the Public Health portfolio and reminded Members of the decision taken by the Council at its meeting on 18 July 2013.

RESOLVED:

That:

- (a) the changes in responsibility for Executive Functions set out at Paragraph 1 of the report be noted.
- (b) the amendment of the responsibilities of the Environment and Transportation Select (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee to include responsibility for Economic Development, and the amendment of the responsibilities of the Policy and Resources Select (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee to include responsibility for Rural Affairs be approved.
- (c) in consequence of (b) above that the Environment and Transportation Select (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee be renamed the Economy, Transport and Environment Select (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee, and that the Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs Select (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee be renamed the Culture and Communities Select (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee be approved.

Authority be delegated to the Head of Governance to amend the Constitution to give effect to the recommendations at (b) and (c) above.

51. **PARTNERSHIP FOR URBAN SOUTH HAMPSHIRE AND TRANSPORT FOR SOUTH HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT BUSINESS PLANS AND THE PROPOSED RATIFICATION OF SOLENT TRANSPORT.**

Councillor Seán Woodward declared a non-pecuniary interest as Vice-Chairman of Transport for South Hampshire & Isle of Wight and Chairman of the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire.

The Council considered a report from the Cabinet (Item 10 in the Minute Book) and presented by the Executive Member for Economy,

Transport and Environment. In response to a question regarding the New Homes Bonus (NHB), the Executive Member confirmed that the Government's proposals would see the share of the NHB intended for County Council's going instead to Local Economic Partnerships and that District Council's would also be affected. The Executive Member offered reassurance that the Solent LEP, for example, would be cognisant of what the County Council would want to see achieved in terms of infrastructure delivery with the NHB. The Executive Member confirmed he would continue to lobby the Secretary of State on the subject of the NHB.

RESOLVED:

That:

- (a) the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) Business Plan be supported.
- (b) the Transport for South Hampshire and Isle of Wight (TfSHIoW) Business Plan be approved.
- (c) the proposed new Joint Committee, named 'Solent Transport', to replace the existing joint committees of TfSHIoW and the Solent Local Transport Board be ratified.

52. TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-YEAR MONITORING REPORT 2013/14.

The Council considered a report from the Cabinet (Item 11 in the Minute Book), as presented by the Leader, providing a mid-year update on the County Council's treasury management activity.

RESOLVED:

That the updated list of 'non-specified' investments, including the extended duration limit of five years for government and public sector investments, as set out in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the report, be approved.

53. ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION SELECT COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF MOTION REGARDING FRACKING

The Council considered a report from the Environment and Transportation Select Committee (Item 12 in the Minute Book) following its consideration of a Motion regarding fracking, as referred by the Council. In presenting the report, the Chairman of the Environment and Transportation Select Committee confirmed that all Members of the Council had been invited to put forward their views for consideration by the Select Committee at its meeting on 5 November 2013. The Chairman emphasised that although operators may have a licence covering an area of Hampshire, which gave exclusive

exploration rights in that area, there were no rights to drill. Operators who wished to undertake shale gas exploration or extraction would require planning permission from the Minerals Planning Authority, i.e. Hampshire County Council for land within the administrative area of Hampshire excluding the National Parks, as well as other associated consents from other regulatory bodies. The Chairman confirmed that since publication of the report no further objections had been received.

During the course of the ensuing debate, concern was expressed about the high volume of water required for “fracking” taking into account that water resources in the south of the country are considered to be under strain. The Executive Member for Income and Capital Receipts responded that the issue of water resources and usage is something that is likely to be addressed by the Government in due course as part of its national policy and guidelines.

RESOLVED:

That the conclusions of the Environment and Transportation Select Committee, as set out below, be endorsed:

- (a) Having considered the executive summary of the independent review into major risks, and carefully reviewed the national and the local position, the Committee conclude that no further County Council action is required at this stage.
- (b) The Committee is satisfied that rigorous regulations and controls are in place to manage the potential risks from shale gas extraction and associated fracking, and that the County Council now has an up to date planning policy framework in place (through the adopted Hampshire Minerals & Waste Plan).
- (c) However, the Committee also recognise that the potential for shale gas extraction is still at an early stage in the UK and therefore the regulatory framework and Government guidance need to be kept under review.
- (d) The Committee supports the development of guidelines by the UK’s health and safety and environmental regulators that are specific to shale gas extraction, in order to help operators to carry out appropriate and robust goal based risk assessments according to the principle of reducing risks to As Low As Reasonably Practicable (as per recommendation 7 of the Royal Academy of Engineering Independent Review).

54. NOTICES OF MOTION.

Two Notices of Motion (Items 13 (a) and 13 (b) in the Minute Book) had been submitted in accordance with Standing Order 18.1 as detailed on the Summons. Subsequent to the publication of the Summons,

Councillor Warwick Lovegrove had withdrawn the Motion at item 13 (a). This was confirmed at the meeting and the Motion was moved. On this basis the Chairman moved to Item 13 (b) and the Council considered the following Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Jackie Porter, seconded by Councillor David Simpson:

“Energy in Hampshire

Hampshire County Council agrees that we need to:

- Produce enough energy to keep the lights on
- Make bills affordable
- De-carbonise energy production

With these three priorities in mind, Council will support an energy policy locally with:

- Robust schemes to reduce energy use, including insulation and efficiency of boilers, to lower bills and reduce consumption
- Alternative energy on developments: solar, wind, air and ground source heat pumps, district energy schemes, anaerobic digestion, collection of gas from landfill.
- Energy neutral buildings to keep bills affordable

Council notes that nationally the framework for producing energy includes power from conventional coal and gas power stations and nuclear power, but that the potential of gas to be extracted in the UK by hydraulically fracturing should not distract us from continuing to place a high priority on alternative, non-carbonising energy sources.

Council agrees that Hampshire must continue to seek to be strong economically whilst not harming our environment and so resolves to:

- Resume the “*Climate Change Centre of Excellence panel* “ (set up in 2009) to drive through innovative alternative energy technology schemes within Hampshire
- Revive the plans to place solar panels on schools and other public buildings
- Investigate and promote the use of all current and future non-carbonising energy production for Hampshire
- Install smart meters prominently in entrances of public buildings, including schools and community buildings to raise awareness of energy use.
- Make innovative efforts to encourage all residents and businesses to use energy more carefully by setting up locally trusted schemes to “switch off”, replace boilers, insulate homes etc.

- While regretting the previous Council’s policy whereby the Council pre-determines the decision not to allow wind turbines to be sited on County Council owned land.

Hampshire County Council, by striving to pursue sustainable and renewable energy initiatives, will reduce and minimise the use of carbon based energy and fuel technologies for the long term benefit of all its residents.”

In accordance with Standing Order 19.1 an Amendment to the Motion was proposed by Councillor Mel Kendal and seconded by Councillor Seán Woodward as follows:

“Delete all after “Hampshire County Council agrees“ and insert:

with national efforts to:

- *Provide energy security of supply*
- *Improve energy efficiency*
- *Tackle fuel poverty*
- *Reduce the proportion of carbon in the energy mix*

With these priorities in mind, Council will support an energy policy locally with:

- *Robust schemes to reduce energy use, including insulation measures and efficiency of boilers, to lower bills and reduce consumption*
- *Alternative energy on developments: solar, small-scale wind, air and ground source heat pumps, district energy schemes, anaerobic digestion, collection of gas from landfill.*

Council notes that a mix of conventional and future technologies is required to provide an appropriate mix and balance in our energy sources and that a high priority continues to be placed on reducing carbon intensive forms in that mix.

Council agrees that Hampshire must continue to seek to be strong economically whilst not harming our environment and so resolves to:

Continue to deliver against the overall aim of it’s Energy Strategy agreed in 2012, namely:

“For Hampshire County Council to provide community leadership for resilience to the risks of energy security, affordability and carbon emissions and, contribute to a sustainable low carbon economy in Hampshire”.

And it’s four key objectives:

1. *To reduce energy consumption and increase the efficiency of energy use in the County Council and in the community of Hampshire.*
2. *To invest in local energy projects which collectively support the key principles behind the Energy Strategy.*
3. *To integrate energy generation and infrastructure into place shaping.*
4. *To facilitate community access to secure, affordable and/or low carbon/renewable energy and energy services.*

Hampshire County Council, by striving to pursue sustainable and renewable energy initiatives, will reduce and minimise carbon based fuel and technologies where it is found to be of overall benefit to Hampshire residents.”

In conclusion of discussion on the Motion as moved and the Amendment as proposed, the Amendment was put to the vote and supported by the majority of Members present. The Amendment, as carried, displaced the original Motion and was therefore voted on as the Substantive Proposition and carried.

55. HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY.

No questions had been received pursuant to Standing Order 16.3. The report of the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority was received. In presenting the report, Councillor Chapman raised awareness of the devastation which may be caused by chimney fires within the home.

56. URGENT DECISIONS.

In accordance with Part 3, Chapter 2, paragraph 3.5 of the Constitution, the Leader reported an urgent decision that had been taken as detailed in the supporting report.

57. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION.

The Council received the reports of the following Executive Members and Chairmen:

- a) The Cabinet/Leader
 - * South Downs National Park Management Plan – Consultation Response
 - * The Hampshire Partnership
 - * Shaping Hampshire
- b) Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health
 - * Public Health Strategic Procurement Plan and approvals
- c) Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment
 - * Fareham & Gosport – Strategic Transport Infrastructure Plan
- d) Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
 - Inquiries received and action taken:

- * Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and Hampshire County Council: Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services – overview of service
- Proposals to vary or develop NHS Services:
 - * Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust: Adult Mental Health Services – proposals to move service location
 - * South Eastern Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Group: Chase Community Hospital – update on implementation of new model of care

(The meeting closed at 1.00pm).

Chairman's Announcements
County Council Meeting – 28 November 2013

May I welcome on your behalf those Honorary Aldermen who have graced us with their presence today - thank you for your support.

Members, I start my announcements with an apology. I apologise to Councillor Kyrle in respect of his Motion on Badger Culling, moved at the last County Council meeting on 19th September.

He will remember that a Motion was put to conclude the debate. This was put in an unorthodox fashion but I allowed it. Council voted to conclude the debate, and I then put the Motion to Council, and it was carried.

I should have allowed Cllr Kyrle to sum up after the debate was concluded, and before I put the Motion to Council. I did not realise my omission until I was driving home that evening.

Cllr Kyrle I do apologise, but I take it you do not wish to sum up now!

The way in which the guillotine was moved was not in accordance with our Standing Orders. It is open to any Member who has not spoken to move that the question be now put, on the conclusion of another Member's speech but not during that speech.

A Member rising from his / her seat shall not make any comment before or after saying "Chairman I move that the question be now put". In other words the guillotine is moved in a precise form unaccompanied by comment.

No Member may move such a Motion at the end of his / her speech, and no Member who has already spoken, may move this Motion. In other words only those who have not spoken, may move the Guillotine Motion.

An account of my activities since we last met, and both the Vice Chairman and I have been busy.

There were a number of engagements that stand out including the Duke of Edinburgh's visit to the Mary Rose Museum in Portsmouth Dockyard, our own Act of Remembrance for Members and Staff, the presentation of BEM medals by the Lord Lieutenant to four people from Hampshire, and our Schools Day Service in the Cathedral.

I was invited to the Annual Estate Dinner of the Montagu Estate in Beaulieu, as Chairman and as the local Member. It was in both capacities that I was guest speaker, and I spoke of balancing the need to preserve the New Forest with the demands of 20 million visitor days every year.

However, the highlight of the last three months was my weekend at Calshot when 29 Young Carers spent that weekend enjoying the many activities at our Activities Centre there.

These young people from 11 to 18 spend much of their childhood as carers for parents and siblings. Many had never spent a weekend away from their caring responsibilities, and one young lady, having travelled from home for about two hours, immediately rang her Mum in private as she alighted from the coach to ensure her Mum was being cared for in her absence. Such carers cannot share in the freedoms of childhood that their friends do, they have responsibilities that would be daunting to an adult, and they do so out of love. Some of them also have special needs of their own, even while caring for others.

And so I wanted to give them a weekend of fun, activity and friendship, and our staff, our music service, and three adult helpers, made sure they were all embraced in warm friendship. I spent the Saturday evening with them. They were lovely, well mannered, and thoroughly enjoying themselves. They had made new friendships with fellow young carers, and three young ladies said to me "we love you". What they meant was 'thank you' but it was the County Council that wanted to thank them. I also thank Colin Davidovitz for spending his Sunday afternoon with them too. Let me conclude by reading a letter from a Mum about her son who is a carer but has some needs himself.

Dear Jo, it took me a long time to get my son to agree to going to the Calshot weekend, as Ruth probably told you, but then he agreed much to my happiness...!!! I dropped him off and he seemed ok, well.....when I picked him up on the Sunday pm he was full of it....he said, in his words, "that was the best weekend away ever, I really really loved it". He said the activities were amazing & the music workshops were great, he said the food was lovely. He said every one that was there were nice and the staff were lovely, he also enjoyed the visit from a Councillor, I am not too sure who he said it was, he got a lovely goody bag, and the chocolate lolly he gave to his brother. In the car on the way home he said, in his own words, "it was so good I hope I get to go again" well I was so happy he enjoyed it as I was worried he would moan and groan and I would have to collect him. As you can imagine I was so happy it went so well. May I thank you for picking him and I hope he represented you well."

Members, I do hope we can repeat this Young Carers Weekend every year, and I shall look at how we can fund it. The value of this weekend far out weighs its cost.

These young people deserve to be recognised and embraced for what they do.

END

Leader's Report
County Council Meeting – 28 November 2013

Further to my advice to members in October I confirm that since our meeting in September Cllr Anna McNair Scott has tendered her resignation as Executive Member for Adult Services. Concerns were formally raised with me on 16th October that there were omissions in the declaration of interests by Councillor McNair Scott. As soon as Cllr McNair Scott returned on 18th October from the Adult Care Conference in Harrogate which she was attending on behalf of the County Council, she met with me and immediately tendered her resignation because of that inadvertent oversight. I am confident there had been no decision taken by Cllr McNair Scott that in any sense involved a conflict of interests but nevertheless felt it correct to accept her resignation so that there could be no distraction from the work of the Council.

I would like to place on record my sincere appreciation for the work undertaken by Cllr McNair Scott in the period she was Executive Member and also my appreciation to Cllr Mrs Liz Fairhurst for being ready to take on the combined role of Executive Member for Adult Services together with her existing public health portfolio. This will have the effect of achieving a 10% reduction in the cost of Executive members

I will also take the opportunity to remind all members how important it is to ensure their own declarations of interest are accurate and up to date at all times as well as to remind Committees of any interest they may have and absenting themselves from Committees if there is any pecuniary interest. Members must also ensure their Disclosure and Barring Certificates are shown to the Chief Executive.

At the Secretary of State for Local Government and Communities request, the Chief Executive and I met with Mr Pickles at his office in the House of Commons on 15th October. He wished to meet me not only as the new Leader of one of the largest Counties in the land but also as Leader of a Council with an excellent reputation. He particularly thanked me for the work we have undertaken for Children's Services on the Isle of Wight. It is indeed something I have experienced in all the national and regional bodies I attend such as CCN, SEEC, and SE7, that Hampshire is held in the highest regard.

One tangible outcome from the meeting was the Secretary of State agreed to set up a working party of officials to look at the case for extending green belt provision in Hampshire. The Minister was surprised to learn that the only green belt in Hampshire was around that huge metropolis of Lymington and New Milton. We agreed we would look at the possibility of a Green Belt around Portsmouth and Southampton and Department officials are in contact with us to set up that working party.

Together with the Leaders of Portsmouth and Southampton City Councils and the Chairman of the Solent LEP and with Greg Clark Local Government Minister, I joined in signing the Southampton and Portsmouth City Deal at the Spinnaker Tower in Portsmouth. This is a unique City Deal not only with two Cities but importantly with a rather larger share of population involved being in the County area between and around the two cities than in the two cities themselves. I made the point to the minister that we in Hampshire wish to see the 2 cities flourish and will do what we can to help them.

The County Council has enjoyed what seems like its “usual” but much valued crop of National Awards: Our In House Property Team has received a SCALA Award (Society for Construction and Architecture in Local Government) Civic Buildings of the Year for Barncroft Primary School in Leigh Park. I can also report that in just one week in October I attended the opening of two new Primary Schools commissioned by the County. Cornerstone in Whitely, Fareham opened by the Bishop of Portsmouth and Pilgrims Cross in Andover opened by the Bishop of Basingstoke. Wonderful new schools and evidence of the good relationship we have with the Dioceses of Winchester and Portsmouth. The Whiteley School may deserve a place in the Guinness Book of Records for the short time it took to bring to fruition

Other Awards were Ringwood Gateway scheme in Association with New Forest District Council and Ringwood Town Council which won a New Forest Access for All Award.

Our Youth Offending Team has been presented with the Youth Justice Effective Practice Certificate, whilst our Hampshire Young Interpreters Scheme developed by the Ethnic Minority and Travellers Achievement Service was the overall winner of the Guardian Public Service Award in the “Grassroots” category

My congratulations go to all officers and staff involved in helping gain those awards. We face difficult times but our on-going success gaining these awards demonstrate the commitment and high morale of our staff and I thank them most sincerely for helping us in these tough economic times.

I attended last week the 7th Annual Interfaith Lecture given by Dr Moojen Momen on the Bahai Faith. It was attended by approximately 100 people including our Lord Lieutenant, the Vice Lord Lieutenant and five Mayors from across the County. It also marked the launch of the 2014 Interfaith Calendar and I would urge members to obtain a copy if they have not already done so

Finally with reference to Dame Mary Fagan our Lord Lieutenant- who is due to retire next year after 20 years of service to the people of Hampshire she has agreed that we name our new hub office in Basingstoke currently known as Vertex House to become Dame Mary Fagan House. I will advise members in due course of the events to mark the retirement of Dame Mary and to mark her service to Hampshire.

**COUNTY COUNCIL
28 NOVEMBER 2013**

**QUESTIONS SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER
16.1.1**

First Questions:

- 1. From Councillor Fiona Mather to the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment:**

“With the winter almost upon us could the Executive Member responsible for the environment outline the level of preparedness of the Highways Team for the advent of flooding and snow?”

- 2. From Councillor Pat West to the Executive Member for Education:**

“Can the Executive Member responsible for education explain the remedial measures implemented by Hampshire County Council following the fire in Winton School in Andover, and how this support has been affected by the Academy status of Winton School?”

- 3. From Councillor Graham Burgess to the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment:**

“Following the recent visit of the Transport Minister, would the Executive Member responsible for the environment update local members on the possible outcome of funding for the proposed Stubbington Bypass?”

- 4. From Councillor Roger Huxstep to the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health:**

“Can the Executive Member responsible for adult services indicate what facilities are available for dementia patients in Hampshire, in both council operated care homes and in private care homes in which Hampshire places residents, indicating how many dementia residents are currently placed in council operated care homes and how many in privately operated care homes?”

- 5. From Councillor Charles Choudhary to the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health:**

“With recent national concerns surrounding 15 minute visits by Adult Social Care providers, can the Executive Member responsible for adult services explain the proportion of, and use made by, Hampshire

County Council for such visits?”

6. From Councillor Patricia Stallard to the Executive Member for Education:

“The temporary buildings of Cornerstone, the new much-needed primary school in Whiteley was completed to schedule due to the dedication and commitment of HCC Officers, and for that I should like to record my thanks. However, would the Executive Member for Education please confirm the timeframe for site completion by the contractors?”

7. From Councillor Alan Dowden to the Leader and Executive Member for Policy & Resources:

“In light of the huge public interest over the proposal to close four County Council residential homes, would the Leader agree with me that the decision should be made by the Full Council, whether to close all or any of the homes?”

The Cabinet on 9th December should only make a recommendation to the Full Council. This must happen in order that the public can feel confident that a democratic decision has been made and all councillors have had the opportunity to debate and vote on this decision.”

8. From Councillor Keith House to the Leader and Executive Member for Policy & Resources:

“85 Councils and the Mayor of London have signed up for the Living Wage, which evidence shows increases productivity and reduces employee turnover as well as assisting lower paid staff. The Executive Member for Human Resources has now agreed to bring a report forward to consider the Living Wage. Does the Leader aim for this report to be written in such a way that it says how the County Council can, rather than cannot, become a Living Wage employer?”

9. From Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee to the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment:

“The Executive Member will know that the land mass of Hampshire is 1300 square miles. The Executive Member will also know that all domestic food waste in the County is burnt in the incinerators at Chineham and Marchwood - thought to be 90,000 tons and entirely from composite bin rubbish. The latest available figures from Defra suggest that the amount of commercial food waste from all sources in Hampshire is 83,000 tons. This is not put in the incinerators, as domestic food waste is, but goes to other disposal options such as land fill or anaerobic digestion plants. MWPA Officers have now, in the last two years, supported and recommended the building of four anaerobic digester chemical plants that provide for the

disposal of 89,000 of food waste - this has been supported by the Regulatory Committee.

Is the Executive Member aware that all four of these chemical plants permissioned to fulfil this function, two on greenfield exception sites and thus contrary to our recently agreed Minerals and Waste Plan, are within a 45 square mile area covering the southern part of the Candovers Division and the northern part of the Alton Rural Division of the County and are all within a 7 mile radius of Alton? Can the Executive Member provide some explanation for this apparent and chronic breakdown in strategic planning in this area?"

10. From Councillor Philip Fawkes to the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside:

"I refer to the Council's decision to invoke a three month break clause on the leasehold of the Spinnaker Bar at the Calshot Activities Centre, the notice served on the 20th September, the vacation required on the 30th December of this year. Whilst I appreciate the business argument for bringing the County's catering arrangements under one 'corporative' roof, does the Executive Member feel that giving the leaseholder, and his appointed manager, three months' notice on a lease that was due for renewal in 2017, reflects well on the Council? Furthermore, would he agree with me that whilst not acting illegally, such callous action - perceived or otherwise - might find our officers and councillors morally wanting in the eyes of the patrons?"

11. From Councillor Jackie Porter to the Leader and Executive Member for Policy & Resources:

"Broadband access is becoming one of the key economic drivers in rural areas. In the light of recent discussions (at both parliamentary and County Council levels) of the failure and expense of the BDUK programme for BT's fibre based technology to reach remote sites, how is the Local Authority intending to enable much faster broadband in the last 5% of Hampshire households within a time frame that ensures the local economy thrives, and importantly accepting that capacity on these routes will be a challenge in the future?"

12. From Councillor Tony Hooke to the Leader and Executive Member for Policy & Resources:

"In line with the cuts of in excess of 1,000 staff from this Council for next year, what corresponding cuts will be made to the number of members, members allowances and members expenses? Indeed, surely this is the time to replace the Cabinet system with a more democratic and cheaper version by committee?"

13. From Councillor Ray Finch to the Leader and Executive Member for Policy & Resources:

“What is the total expenditure on outside consultancy firms over the last 12 months. Please name by consultancy and the amounts of the top three companies.”

Second Questions:

14. From Councillor Alan Dowden to the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment:

“The Velvet bus company are withdrawing the 507 service from Valley Park to Toynbee School at the end of the current term. Would the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment explain how the county will ensure that pupils who live in Valley Park, Chandlers Ford will get to Toynbee School each day?”

15. From Councillor Keith House to the Leader and Executive Member for Policy and Resources:

“What are the aims of the County Council’s advertorial insert into the Municipal Journal recently?”