

AT A MEETING of the ECONOMY TRANSPORT & ENVIRONMENT SELECT COMMITTEE of the COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle, Winchester on Monday, 9 December 2013.

**PRESENT**

Chairman:  
p Councillor Sharyn Wheale

Vice-Chairman:  
p Councillor Geoff Hockley

Councillors:

p Graham Burgess	p Roger Huxstep
p Charles Choudhary	a Rupert Kyrle
p Shaun Cully	p Peter Latham
p Philip Fawkes	a Steve Rippon-Swaine
p Brian Gurden	p David Simpson
p Edward Heron	p Mark Staplehurst

24. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Kyrle who was unable to attend due to a work commitment, and Cllr Rippon-Swaine who had chosen not to take part in the meeting due to his disclosable pecuniary interest (see below).

25. **DECLARATION 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.

The Chairman reported that Cllr Steve Rippon Swaine had given notice that he had a disclosable pecuniary interest due to his employment as a consultant with the Environment Agency. As the Environment Agency were

one of the witnesses being questioned, he had decided not to take part in the meeting.

Cllr Edward Heron declared that he was a Member of New Forest District Council, as one of the witnesses being questioned was a representative from New Forest District Council. However, he decided to remain and take part in the meeting, as the Standards Committee had provided dispensation for Members representing both the County Council and a District Council.

26. **CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION**

The Chairman welcomed the witnesses to the meeting which was being held to receive oral evidence on flood risk management. The Chairman highlighted the role of the scrutiny function to challenge the status quo and offer evidence-based alternatives to existing approaches. The Select Committee can suggest improvements where appropriate, ensuring that the best interests of the people of Hampshire are being met by the activities of the Council and other agencies.

She thanked the authorities who had responded to the Committee's call for written evidence (see Item 4 in the Minute Book), and the individuals who had agreed to attend as witnesses. She reminded those present that the aim of the session was to question the invited witnesses on the four lines of inquiry identified in relation to flood risk management: funding, overlapping responsibilities, sustainable drainage and maintenance.

27. **RECEIVING ORAL EVIDENCE ON FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT**

The Chairman invited the witnesses to introduce themselves:

Hampshire County Council – Linda Tartaglia Kershaw,  
Head of Strategic Environmental Delivery

Environment Agency – Andrew Gilham, Flood &  
Coastal Risk Manager, Solent and South Downs Area

Southern Water – Mark Thompson, Head of  
Wastewater Assets

Southern Regional Flood and Coastal Committee –  
Lorraine Brown, Chair

New Forest District Council – Doug Wright, Principal  
Engineer

Committee Members questioned the witnesses on the four themes identified. The write up of the questions asked and the answers provided is attached as an appendix to these minutes.

28. **CHAIRMAN'S SUMMATION**

The Chairman thanked the witnesses for their contributions. She highlighted the areas that had emerged that the Committee may wish to pick up through recommendations included:

- The role of Local Authority representatives on Regional Flood and Coastal Committees to influence priorities for use of Local Levy
- The need for Guidance early from Defra regarding Sustainable urban Drainage
- The possibility of looking at the cost effectiveness of the County Council adopting high risk ordinary water courses adjacent to highways in order to ensure maintenance is undertaken
- The potential to hold a follow up event in future to see how issues have moved on

The Chairman noted that the findings from the written and oral evidence would be written up and circulated to Members for comment. It was anticipated the draft report including recommendations would be considered at the 21 January 2014 meeting of the Select Committee for approval. The report would then be circulated to local risk management authorities and responses invited from those organisations to whom recommendations were directed.

The findings be written up for approval at the next meeting of the Select Committee

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Chairman, 21 January 2014