

AT A MEETING of the Cabinet of HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held at the Castle on 30 MARCH 2015.

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 J. Bennison, R Bolton, C. Connor, K. Evans, A. Gibson, P. Stallard and S. Wheale

131. BROADCASTING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman announced that the meeting was being recorded for broadcast on the County Council's website and would be available for repeated viewing. The press and members of the public were also permitted to film and broadcast this meeting. Those remaining at the meeting were consenting to being filmed and recorded, and to the possible use of those images and recording for broadcasting purposes.

132. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All Cabinet Members were in attendance.

133. 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 and, having regard to 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 Personal Interest in a matter being considered at the meeting they considered, having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 4 of the Code, whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 5 of the Code, considered whether it was appropriate to leave the meeting while the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

134. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2015 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

135. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations.

Councillor Connor spoke on items 6 and 9 later in the meeting with the agreement of the Chairman.

136. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reported that proposals were being considered through the County Council Network for local devolution to County Councils, and a number of meetings were planned in order to take this forward.

Attention was drawn to the progress in expanding broadband coverage throughout the County, and in particular, the importance of good broadband coverage in rural areas.

The Chairman confirmed to Cabinet that County Councils had recently been made statutory consultees on all matters relating to flooding.

137. FURTHER ELECTORAL REVIEW OF HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – COUNCIL SIZE SUBMISSION TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

The Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Executive (item 6 in the Minute Book) regarding the process and timelines associated with the further Electoral Review of the Electoral Arrangements of the County Council currently being undertaken by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

The report was introduced and the background reasons for the review set out. It was explained that there were two phases to the review; the overall Council size and the pattern of electoral boundaries. The report being considered by the Cabinet included a draft submission to the Boundary Commission setting out the case for the overall Council size remaining at 78 Members. A number of the key features of the role and functions of Members within the Council were highlighted, including their place in the governance structure, the scrutiny functions and outside bodies and the representational role in the community. This was aligned with forecasting of electorate sizes to 2021 based on the Small Area Population Survey, to demonstrate the reasoning for the number of elected Members to remain at 78.

The next steps in the review process were explained, it was noted that there would be an opportunity for the County Council to make representations on the boundary pattern as part of this, and therefore the establishment of a Member Working Group to co-ordinate that submission was proposed.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Connor addressed the Cabinet. In his view some of the evidence in the report was not sufficiently robust. With reference to population growth rates in each of the District Authority areas, Councillor Connor proposed that the 78 Members should be re-distributed to remove one seat from the New Forest and replace it with an additional seat in Eastleigh.

Cabinet Members acknowledged Councillor Connor's comments. It was felt that factors other than simple population numbers, such as geographical size and natural communities, should also be taken into account. Members noted however that an implication of remaining at 78 Council Divisions was an average increase of 1000 electors per Councillor.

The recommendations set out in the report were considered and agreed with an addition to recognise the implied average increase of electors per Councillor. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 1.

138. TRANSFORMATION TO 2015 – FINAL REPORT

The Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Executive (item 7 in the Minute Book) setting out for approval the progress on the Transformation to 2015 programme.

The key points of the Programme were set out and Cabinet were supportive of the closure of the programme with outstanding matters feeding into the Transformation to 2017 programme

The recommendations within the report were proposed and agreed. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 2.

139. TRANSFORMATION TO 2017 – REPORT NO. 2

The Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Executive (item 8 in the Minute Book) regarding the approach and principles for the Transformation Programme to 2017.

The savings streams as set out in the report were highlighted to Members, with particular attention drawn to Market Management and the Enhanced Voluntary Redundancy (EVR) programme. It was confirmed that EVR was expected to result in £18 million savings. The timetable for the Transformation Programme was set out and the reporting process explained.

The recommendations within the report were proposed and agreed, with the exception of recommendation "d" which was no longer required. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 3.

140. PENSION FUND GOVERNANCE

Councillors Joy and Gibson declared a Personal Interest in the item as Members of the Pension Fund Panel.

Councillors Perry, Kendal, Joy, Edgar, Fairhurst, Woodward, Reid and Gibson declared a Personal Interest in the item as members of the Pension Scheme.

The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Corporate Resources – Corporate Services (item 9 in the Minute Book) regarding progress achieved in complying with the new regulations for pension fund governance.

The report was introduced and key points highlighted. It was confirmed that there had, as yet, been no response to the application made to the Secretary of State for a combined Pension Fund Panel and Board and on this basis the options in the recommendations were set out.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Connor addressed Cabinet. He expressed his concern that a high proportion of staff were not members of the Pension Scheme and that this would ultimately be detrimental to both them individually and to the Scheme through a reduction in income. He proposed that attention be given to encouraging more staff to join.

The legal requirements of auto-enrolment and the emphasis that this placed on staff to actively opt out of the Pension Scheme were explained and it was confirmed that the County Council had fully implemented this. Members agreed that they would always encourage staff to enrol in the Scheme.

The recommendations within the report were proposed and agreed. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 4.