

## Hampshire

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At an Extraordinary Meeting of Hampshire County Council held at The Castle, Winchester on 13 April 2015.

### Chairman:

*p* Councillor Colin Davidovitz, BEM

### Vice-Chairman:

*p* Councillor Jonathan Glen

Councillor:

*p* Phil Bailey  
*p* John Bennison  
*p* Ray Bolton  
*p* Ann Briggs  
*p* Graham Burgess  
*p* Rita Burgess  
*a* Adam Carew  
*p* Christopher Carter  
*a* Roz Chadd  
*p* Keith Chapman, MBE  
*p* Peter Chegwyn  
*p* Charles Choudhary  
*p* Vaughan Clarke  
*a* Adrian Collett  
*p* Criss Connor  
*p* Mark Cooper  
*a* Ferris Cowper  
*a* Shaun Cully  
*a* Alan Dowden  
*p* Peter Edgar  
*p* Jacqui England  
*p* Keith Evans  
*p* Liz Fairhurst  
*p* Philip Fawkes  
*a* Ray Finch  
*a* Jane Frankum  
*p* Andrew Gibson  
*p* Chris Greenwood  
*p* Brian Gurden  
*p* David Harrison  
*p* Marge Harvey  
*a* Edward Heron  
*p* Geoff Hockley  
*a* Tony Hooke  
*p* Keith House  
*p* Rob Humby  
*p* Roger Huxstep  
*p* Andrew Joy

Councillor:

*a* David Keast  
*p* Mark Kemp-Gee  
*p* Mel Kendal  
*a* Rupert Kyrle  
*p* Chris Lagdon  
*p* Peter Latham  
*p* Warwick Lovegrove  
*a* Martin Lyon  
*p* Robin McIntosh  
*p* Anna McNair Scott  
*p* Keith Mans  
*p* Fiona Mather  
*p* Ken Moon  
*p* Andy Moore  
*p* Frank Pearce  
*p* Roy Perry  
*p* Jackie Porter  
*a* Roger Price, JP  
*p* Stephen Reid  
*p* Alan Rice, TD  
*p* George Ringrow  
*p* Steve Rippon-Swaine  
*p* Timothy Rolt  
*p* Frank Rust  
*p* David Simpson  
*p* Patricia Stallard  
*a* Mark Staplehurst  
*p* Elaine Still  
*p* Bruce Tennent  
*p* Tom Thacker  
*p* Ken Thornber, CBE  
*p* Martin Tod  
*p* Malcolm Wade  
*p* John Wall  
*p* Sharyn Wheale  
*p* Chris Wood  
*p* Seán D. T. Woodward

**145. 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 broadcasting purposes.

**146. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Roz Chadd, Adrian Collett, Ferris Cowper, Shaun Cully, Jane Frankum, David Keast, Rupert Kyrle, Martin Lyon and Roger Price, and from Honorary Alderman Phynette Dickens and Marilyn Tucker.

**147. 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.

It was noted that all Members had a personal interest in regard to Item 4 on the Agenda.

**148. CHAIRMAN'S PROPOSALS.**

The Chairman proposed the following:

- a) to vary the usual order of proceedings to allow the Head of Governance and Monitoring Officer to speak and to answer questions Members may have; and
- b) to vary Standing Order 21 to allow Political Group Leaders to speak for a maximum of 30 minutes to respond to the proposed recommendations of Cabinet.

The Council agreed the Chairman's proposals.

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

The Council considered a report from the Cabinet (Item 4 in the Minute Book), as presented by the Head of Governance and Monitoring Officer setting out the background to the Local Boundary Commission for England's (LGBCE) Further Electoral Review of the County Council and detailing the proposed submission on Council Size in regard to Part I of the Review (Annex 2 to the Report).

In presenting the report, the Head of Governance and Monitoring Officer summarised the background to the LGBCE's decision to conduct a Further Electoral Review of the County Council, its timetable for the Review (Annex 1 to the Report) and confirmed that the Review has two distinct parts:

- Part 1: consideration of Council Size
- Part 2: consideration of new electoral division boundaries arising from the LGBCE's initial conclusions on Council Size

In regard to Council Size, Members attention was drawn to the legislative requirement that when making its recommendations at the conclusion of the Review, the LGBCE should take into account any changes to the number and distribution of local government electors likely to take place within the five years following the end of the Review (i.e. to 2021). The LGBCE has made it clear that the registered electorate data at the start of the Review (December 2014, as provided by the District and Borough Councils in Hampshire) should be used and this applies to the electorate forecasting exercise. It was noted that to help Members gain a clear understanding of the methodology used for the electorate forecasting exercise, a workshop had been convened on Thursday 23 April commencing at 10.00am to which all Members had been invited. It was also reported that if any change to the registered electorate forecasted figures arose between the Council meeting and the deadline for submission of the Council Size report to the LGBCE, it was proposed that delegated authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, be approved to enable any necessary adjustments to be made.

The Head of Governance and Monitoring Officer highlighted that the LGBCE would not consider a revised pattern of electoral divisions until such time as it has reached its conclusions on Council size. Formulating a revised pattern of electoral divisions is a complex task therefore it was proposed that a Members' Working Group be convened to undertake this work in order to make use of Members extensive knowledge of local areas and the communities within them. The terms of reference for the Members Working Group were set out in Annex 3 to the Report. A further report proposing a revised pattern of electoral divisions would be submitted to the Council meeting in July.

The Head of Governance and Monitoring Officer drew Members attention to some minor presentational points in the draft submission (Annex 2 to the Report):

- whilst reference in the Report itself was made to both the New Forest and South Downs National Parks, these forums would also be included within the list of Outside Bodies at Appendix 7(a) to the Report; and
- duplicated references to Whitehill and Bordon Consultative Group, Strategy Board and Town Partnership Committee in Appendix 7(b) to the Report would be removed.

During the course of the ensuing debate, the consensus of the County Council's Group Leaders of the draft submission on Council size was welcomed and the Leader of the Council expressed his thanks to the Group Leaders for their unanimity. The depth and breadth of Members individual local knowledge in regard to the formulation of a new pattern of electoral divisions would be important, as was community and sense of place, and all Members were encouraged to engage with the Review. Some concern was expressed about the effect of the introduction of Individual Electoral Registration (IER) and potential changes to the number of registered electors since December 2014. It was also noted that electorate forecasts to 2021 indicated an overall projected increase to 1,079,999 (an average of 13,846 electors per Member) which could support an increase to the Council size. However, the Leader reported that the Group Leaders Working Group had considered this position and were agreed that given the continuing challenging landscape the County Council was operating within, it was not the right time to consider an increase in Council size.

On conclusion of the debate the Chairman put the recommendations set out in the Report to the vote and it was

RESOLVED:

That the County Council:

- (a) Approve the draft submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England on Council Size (attached at Annex 2 to the Report), indicating the argument and evidence to remain with 78 Members, notwithstanding the forecast indicates an increase in the average number of registered electors by 766 per Member.
- (b) Authorises the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, to amend the draft submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (attached at Annex 2 to the Report) to take account of any change to registered electorate forecast figures as a result of any further information arising between the date of full

Council and the deadline for submission of the Council Size Report.

- (c) Approve the proposal that a Members' Working Group be convened as suggested at Paragraph 17 of the Report in order to make recommendations to the Group Leaders Working Group in respect of the County Council's pattern of electoral divisions, together with the Terms of Reference for the Members' Working Group, as set out at Annex 3 to the Report.

(The meeting closed at 10.59 am).