

AT A MEETING of the Cabinet of HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held at the Castle on 22 JUNE 2015.

Chairman:
p Councillor Roy Perry

Councillors:

p	Peter Edgar	p	Keith Mans
p	Liz Fairhurst	p	Stephen Reid
p	Andrew Gibson	p	Patricia Stallard
p	Andrew Joy	a	Seán Woodward
p	Mel Kendal		

Also present with the agreement of the Chairman: Councillors J. Bennison, R Bolton, C. Carter, J. England, K. Evans, R. Huxstep, A. McNair-Scott, and E. Still

141. 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.

142. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Woodward.

It was noted that Councillor Wheale (who had a standing invitation to attend from the Chairman) had also sent her apologies.

143. 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.

144. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 March 2015 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

145. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations.

146. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed Members to the meeting and also extended a special welcome to officers from his "Futures Group" who were in attendance to observe proceedings.

It was highlighted that the Cabinet meeting fell on Armed Services Day and the positive relationship between the County Council and the armed services was recognised. It was reported that a reception would be hosted for Hampshire reservists. It was also noted that a £20,000 grant had been made to the Gurkah Welfare Association, through which to provide relief following the earthquake in Nepal.

The Chairman confirmed that, following the announcement that Andrew Smith would retire later in the year, the process to recruit a new Chief Executive had begun.

Following a meeting of Local Authority Leaders, it was reported that unanimous agreement had been reached to submit a bid to the Secretary of State for a greater Hampshire Authority with devolved powers. Item 9 on the agenda (Minute 150) refers.

147. TRANSFORMATION TO 2017 – REPORT NO. 3

The Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Executive (item 6 in the Minute Book) regarding progress of the Transformation to 2017 programme.

The report was introduced and the context and timescales of the programme was set out. It was confirmed that approximately 250 officers were involved in the Transformation process, and alongside this the majority of the County Council's business proceeded as normal. Cabinet were supportive of the programme, in particular of the co-location of Council offices.

In year reductions in the Public Health budget were highlighted to Cabinet and it was additionally noted that a report of the Better Care Fund would be presented to a future meeting.

The recommendations set out in the report were considered and agreed. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 1.

148. 2014/15 - END OF YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Corporate Resources – Corporate Services (item 7 in the Minute Book) providing a summary of the 2014/15 final accounts.

The strong overall performance of the Council and the individual budgetary positions for each department and for the Grant Equalisation Fund were set out. It was noted that the investments required by the Transformation Programme and the Council's Capital Programme had begun to reduce the reserves balance.

Cabinet welcomed the report, in particular the benefit of the investment in the wider Hampshire economy generated by the Capital Programme. The "adequate" audit rating was clarified and it was explained that this indicated strong performance, with no significant risk.

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

149. **SHAPING HAMPSHIRE – 2014/15 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Executive (item 8 in the Minute Book) providing a review of performance across the County Council in 2014/15, including a summary of progress against the Shaping Hampshire Plan and key findings from the annual self-assessment.

The background to self-assessment was set out and the overall high performance of the Council was highlighted. Members noted that some areas for improvement had been identified and recognised that this demonstrated the purpose of self-assessment. Cabinet identified particular success in the areas of GCSE results and the expansion of high speed broadband and were keen to continue to make progress across all areas. The annual equalities report was noted and Cabinet emphasised the commitment to equalities in the Council.

The recommendations within the report were proposed and agreed. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 3.

150. **DEVOLUTION – POSITIONING THE COUNTY COUNCIL**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Executive (item 9 in the Minute Book) recommending the Wider Hampshire Model of Devolution as the preferred option upon which further work is taken forward.

As per the Chairman's announcement (Minute 146 refers) it was noted that agreement had been reached to bid for a wider Hampshire Authority. It was anticipated that this would increase efficiencies and economies, without loss of sovereignty to individual authorities, through taking responsibility for local control of services currently controlled by central government. It was proposed that this be funded through local retention of business rates and a share of stamp duty. Cabinet noted that the recommendations in the report were to authorise negotiations to take place, the outcomes of which would be reported to a future meeting of Cabinet.

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

151. **SAFEGUARDING UPDATE**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Children's Services (item 10 in the Minute Book) providing an update to the Cabinet on safeguarding of children activity within the Council.

It was recognised and welcomed that Hampshire Children's Services continue to be the highest rated Children's Services department in the country by Ofsted. National issues of child sexual exploitation were highlighted and the County Council position, including work with historic case reviews was set out.

Safeguarding performance levels were summarised and it was noted that Hampshire had a very low instance of children requiring a repeat child protection plan, which was indicative of high success levels. Cabinet recognised the benefit of taking a multi-agency approach and in particular the connection with the Troubled Families programme. Progress on the recruitment and retention of staff in some areas of the County was outlined. Members were keen to see links between universities and the local authority strengthened.

The recommendations within the report were proposed and agreed with an addition to recognise the robust and vigilant approach towards safeguarding all Hampshire children. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 5.