

Hampshire

At a Meeting of Hampshire County Council held at The Castle,
Winchester on 22 October 2015.

Chairman:

p Councillor Jonathan Glen

Vice-Chairman:

p Councillor Keith Chapman, MBE

Councillor:	Councillor:
<i>a</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> Zilliah Brooks	<i>a</i> Rupert Kyrle
<i>p</i> Graham Burgess	<i>p</i> Chris Lagdon
<i>p</i> Rita Burgess	<i>p</i> Peter Latham
<i>a</i> Adam Carew	<i>p</i> Warwick Lovegrove
<i>p</i> Christopher Carter	<i>p</i> Martin Lyon
<i>p</i> Roz Chadd	<i>a</i> Robin McIntosh
<i>p</i> Peter Chegwyn	<i>p</i> Anna McNair Scott
<i>p</i> Charles Choudhary	<i>p</i> Keith Mans
<i>p</i> Vaughan Clarke	<i>p</i> Fiona Mather
<i>p</i> Adrian Collett	<i>a</i> Ken Moon
<i>p</i> Criss Connor	<i>p</i> Andy Moore
<i>p</i> Mark Cooper	<i>p</i> Frank Pearce
<i>a</i> Ferris Cowper	<i>p</i> Roy Perry
<i>p</i> Shaun Cully	<i>p</i> Jackie Porter
<i>p</i> Colin Davidovitz, BEM	<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>p</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>p</i> Patricia Stallard
<i>p</i> Andrew Gibson	<i>p</i> Mark Staplehurst
<i>p</i> Chris Greenwood	<i>p</i> Elaine Still
<i>p</i> Brian Gurden	<i>a</i> Bruce Tennent
<i>a</i> David Harrison	<i>p</i> Tom Thacker
<i>p</i> Marge Harvey	<i>p</i> Ken Thornber, CBE
<i>p</i> Edward Heron	<i>p</i> Martin Tod
<i>p</i> Geoff Hockley	<i>p</i> Malcolm Wade
<i>p</i> Tony Hooke	<i>p</i> John Wall
<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

Honorary Alderman Roger Kimber was also in attendance.

188. 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.

189. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Phil Bailey; Adam Carew; Ferris Cowper; David Harrison; Rupert Kyrle; Robin McIntosh; Ken Moon; Frank Rust and Bruce Tennent, and from Honorary Aldermen Patricia Banks; John Bryant; Phrynnette Dickens and Marilyn Tucker.

190. 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.

191. MINUTES.

The minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting and the Ordinary Meeting of the County Council held on 16 July 2015 were confirmed as correct records and signed by the Chairman.

192. DEPUTATIONS.

Deputations were received from Gillian Noble regarding Safer Roads for Old Basing and from David Adams, Loui Harmer and Jane Baker regarding a School Crossing Patrol at Weeke Primary School in Winchester.

193. 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. In particular the Chairman highlighted visits to Naomi House Hospice and the new Mary Rose Museum. The full list of the Chairman's engagements since the last Council Meeting had been circulated and the Chairman's full report is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 1.

It was with sadness that the Chairman reported the passing of two former County Councillors – Robert Corry on 9 February and Arthur Hill on 19 September 2015. Mr Corry represented the Romsey Electoral Division from 1984-85 and Mr Hill represented Portsmouth No. 6 (Meredith) Electoral Division from May 1973 and then Copnor from 1981 until 1989. Several Members paid tribute to the former County Councillors and the Council observed a minute's silence as a mark of respect.

194. LEADER'S REPORT.

The Leader reported on a number of matters, in particular his intention to propose that former County Councillor, Colin Davidovitz be bestowed the title of Honorary Alderman; the acknowledgement letter from the Chief Clerk to HM the Queen passing on thanks for the Council's good wishes to HM the Queen on becoming Britain's longest serving Monarch; confirmation that HRH the Duchess of Cornwall had agreed to become Honorary President of the Sir Harold Hillier Gardens; "Walking for the Wounded" which saw a detachment of former members of the armed services who had been wounded in action come to Winchester as part of their 1,000 mile walk around Britain and his appointment by the Local Government Association (LGA) to be the Chairman of the LGA Children and Young People Board.

The Leader reported that preparations across the county were being co-ordinated by County Council officers in regard to the Syrian refugee crisis and a meeting at the Home Office would be attended later in the day.

In regard to the Electoral Review of the County Council, the consultation conducted by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England on a Pattern of Divisions for the County Council in the future closed on 3 August 2015. The Commission would publish their Draft Recommendations on 17 November which would signal a further period of public consultation.

The Leader reported on progress with the Combined Authorities submission to the Chancellor of the Exchequer that had been made on 4 September by the County Council, Southampton, Portsmouth and the

Isle of Wight Unitary Councils, the 11 District Councils, the New Forest and the South Downs National Park Authorities together with indications of support from the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire, the Chief Constable and the Chief Fire Officer for Hampshire and the Chairmen of the Hampshire and the Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Authorities. The Leader confirmed that all partners were working closely together on this important devolution opportunity and emphasised that nothing was committed as yet. The bid was not about changes of Council boundaries and there would be no new bureaucracy – it was about getting more say locally and more influence over local affairs.

Finally the Leader reported that three Senior Officers would be leaving the Council shortly: Dr Ruth Milton, Director of Public Health; Gill Duncan, Director of Adult Services; and Andrew Smith, Chief Executive. The Leader expressed his thanks to Ruth and Gill for the excellent work they had done in their respective service areas. Andrew Smith would be retiring on 31 October after 30 years of dedicated service to the County Council and the people of Hampshire. The Leader led the tributes and thanked Andrew for his sterling work and commented that the County Council's success as an outstanding organisation owed much to Andrew's skill, determination and effectiveness at both the local and national level.

Councillors paid tribute to all three Officers.

The Chairman invited Andrew Smith to address the Council. Andrew responded that he had very much enjoyed his time at Hampshire County Council and thanked all Members, past and present for their support. Andrew also expressed his thanks to the staff of the County Council for the excellent work they do and the support they had given him personally.

The Leader's full report is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 2.

195. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 16.1.1.

The list of Questions submitted under Standing Order 16.1.1 is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 3. Executive Members responded accordingly. In regard to Question 9 on the list, the 30 minutes allowed for Questions had expired therefore in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.5 a written response would be provided to all Members of the Council.

196. APPOINTMENT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (HEAD OF PAID SERVICE).

The Council considered a report from the Member Appointment Panel (Item 8 in the Minute Book) recommending an appointment to the post of Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service). The Leader presented the

report and moved the recommendations. As Chairman of the Member Appointment Panel the Leader highlighted the importance of the cross-party involvement from the outset and reported that the candidates interviewed brought considerable experience at both the local government and commercial level.

RESOLVED:

That the County Council approved the appointment of John Coughlan as Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service).

At this point in the proceedings, the Chairman invited John Coughlan to speak. John thanked Members for their confidence and expressed pleasure in taking on the role. John also thanked staff and conveyed his best wishes for the future to Andrew Smith.

197. **APPOINTMENTS.**

The Council considered a report from the Chief Executive (Item 9 in the Minute Book), as presented by the Leader.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Ferris Cowper replace Councillor Steve Rippon-Swaine on the Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee.

198. **MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY UPDATE AND TRANSFORMATION TO 2017 SAVINGS PROPOSAL.**

The Council considered a report from the Cabinet (Item 10 in the Minute Book) providing an update on the medium term prospects for the County Council's finances to 2019/20 and Transformation to 2017 savings proposals, considered by the Cabinet on 5 October 2015. The Cabinet had also considered the Treasury Management mid-year report for 2015/16 (Appendix 1 to the Cabinet report) in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice and recommended it to the County Council for approval.

In presenting the report and moving the recommendations, the Leader emphasised that the savings proposals (set out in Appendix 2 of the Cabinet report) had been drawn up against the backdrop of unprecedented financial circumstances. A funding gap of £98m had been predicted by the 2017/18 financial year in the light of decreasing resources. Achieving this level of savings would require making difficult decisions but these decisions would not be made lightly. Priority was continuing to be given to frontline services to provide support to those that needed it the most such as vulnerable children and adults. The Leader further reported that the views of individual Members and of the Policy and Resources Select Committee regarding the proposal to reduce the level of Members Devolved Grant from

£8,000 to £5,000 per annum would be taken into account. However, if the grants were to be retained at the current level, a commensurate level of savings would be sought elsewhere. Lastly, the Leader reminded Members of the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) announcement (expected in November) which would detail the level of Revenue Support Grant the County Council would receive for the next financial year. Following the Autumn Statement, the County Council will meet in February 2016 to set its Council Tax precept.

Councillor Kendal, the Executive Member for Income and Capital Receipts reported that during these challenging times Council Tax had not been increased. The strategy to consistently put savings to the Grant Equalisation Reserve to protect against future funding shortfalls had held the County Council in good stead. A public consultation exercise had been undertaken seeking the views of residents and stakeholders on options for managing the anticipated continuing reductions in central Government funding, and the consultation feedback had been considered carefully.

During the course of the ensuing discussion, Members welcomed the decision not to progress to stage 2 consultation savings proposals in regard to short breaks for the families of children with disabilities. Members were mindful of the Government's forthcoming CSR announcement and that the Medium Term Financial Strategy would be re-visited following that announcement. Some concern was expressed about the performance of the Better Care Fund and the pressure that added in the system, and the increasing use of volunteers in non-statutory services. The importance of planning robustly for the future was recognised and the strategy to protect core services was supported.

RESOLVED:

That the County Council:

- a) approved the mid-year report on Treasury Management activity at Appendix 1 of the Cabinet report (Annex to the Council papers); and
- b) approved the savings proposals in Appendix 2 of the Cabinet report (Annex to the Council papers) after taking due regard of the consultation feedback and Equality Impact Assessments, with the exception of the proposal for short breaks for families of children with disabilities.

199. **STREAMLINING CORPORATE PROCEDURES.**

The Council considered a report from the Cabinet (Item 11 in the Minute Book) which detailed changes to the County Council's

Constitution in consequence of the Public Contract Regulations 2015. This required a review of Contract Standing Orders to ensure the County Council's continued compliance with relevant procurement legislation. In doing so the opportunity was taken to streamline both Contract Standing Orders and Financial Regulations to increase the efficiency of the County Council's business.

In the interests of business efficiency, it was proposed that the time limit for the submission of Members' expenses claims, as provided for in the Members' Allowances Scheme, be aligned with the submission period for self-service on-line claims, i.e. by three months from the date any claim arises and that all Members' expenses claims should be made via ESS Lite for Councillors. It was proposed that this change comes into effect post Elections in May 2017.

Lastly, in recognition of the combination of the functions of Governance and Legal Services under the County Council's Head of Governance and Monitoring Officer, it was proposed that functions in the Constitution currently delegated to the Head of Legal Services be delegated to the Head of Governance and Monitoring Officer.

RESOLVED:

That the County Council:

- a) approved the revised Contract Standing Orders referred to in Paragraph 5 and set out in Annex 1 to the report;
- b) approved the revised Financial Regulations referred to in Paragraph 6 and set out in Annex 2 to the report;
- c) approved the proposed amendments to the procedures for claiming of Members' expenses referred to in Paragraphs C i) to iii) for the report; and
- d) Delegated authority to the Head of Governance and Monitoring Officer to make changes to the County Council's Constitution and the Members' Allowances Scheme consequential upon approval of recommendations in the report.

200. **HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY.**

No questions had been received pursuant to Standing Order 16.3.

In presenting the report of the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority (HFRA), the Chairman of the HFRA provided an update on the public consultation on draft proposals for delivering fire and rescue services fit for the future, as referred to in paragraph 170 of the report. This important consultation was six weeks in and would close on 4 December 2015. The Chairman reported good progress with the

consultation and confirmed he would email all Members with further information and arrange for the distribution of a useful supporting booklet.

The report of the HFRA (Item 12 in the Minute Book) was received.

201. CHANGES IN RESPONSIBILITY FOR EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS

The Council received the report of the Cabinet (Item 13 in the Minute Book) setting out changes in responsibility for Executive functions in accordance with Part 1, Chapter 11, paragraph 11.6.2 of the Constitution. A report setting out the revised Executive responsibilities was resolved upon by Cabinet on 21 September 2015.

202. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION.

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

- a) The Cabinet/Leader
 - * Devolution: update on progress

- b) Executive Member for Adult Social Care
 - * Advocacy Services
 - * Adult Mental Health Housing and Support (Supporting People) Review

- c) Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside
 - * New governance arrangements for the Sport Hampshire and Isle of Wight team
 - * Country Parks Transformation Programme Update

(The meeting closed at 2.25 pm).

APPENDIX 1

A warm welcome to you all, to this, my last full county council meeting as your Chairman.....for 2015.

I'd also like to welcome Honorary Alderman Roger Kimber.

Today, 22nd October, is an important date in our political calendar, as in twelve hours' time the polling stations will close on the Chandler's Ford County By-Election. I am sure that you are therefore all looking forward to a rapid meeting so that we can all get back to the fun of encouraging people to vote. The Leader, in his report, will be mentioning Colin Davidovitz, but I know that we all will miss him and that we wish all the candidates looking to fill his seat here the very best.

Forthcoming attractions at a venue near you...

*“And gentlemen in England, now a-bed,
Shall think themselves accurs'd they were not here
And hold their manhoods cheap, whiles any speaks
That fought with us upon St Crispin's Day.”*

Now....does anyone here know what I'm on about?

Yes, well done, the Battle of Agincourt!

This coming Sunday, at 3.30pm in the Great Hall, we will be commemorating the 600th anniversary of this epic battle, with a performance by 'Now Heritage'. We are delighted that all tickets have now been sold, but if anyone here wishes to add their name to the waiting list please contact Anne Neele on anne.neele@hants.gov.uk. To remind you, on 25th October 1415 Henry V won a great victory over the French army with only 6,000 English soldiers opposing 25,000 Frenchmen.

I'd like to bring to your attention a few highlights from the list of my engagements over the last three months:

1. Visit to Naomi House/Jack's Place, with Alistair Stewart, Patron. His genuine empathy with the residents and staff was both moving and inspiring, particularly as we knew the young residents will never fulfil their true potential.
2. Visit to new Mary Rose Museum. An extraordinary snapshot of a tragic moment in history, this award-winning presentation of thousands of artefacts of everyday Tudor life is a must-see.
3. New Forest District Council Civic Day. I would recommend that you visit St Barbe Museum in Lymington. It is a genuine Hampshire gem.
4. Installation of Alan Titchmarsh as the new Chancellor at University of Winchester. He is proving to be a very popular choice, and this week I

witnessed him presenting honorary doctorates to the following people: Sally Taylor, BBC South, for services to broadcasting; Rt. Hon. Professor Shirley William, co-founder of the Liberal Democrat Party, for service to politics; and Robert Bainbridge Taylor, for services to education and sport. He played rugby for the East Midlands, the Barbarians, England and the British Lions, achieving 20 international caps.

And on the subject of rugby..... if anybody wishes a completely unbiased opinion about last Sunday's match result, please contact either myself, the Chief Executive, or the Chief Treasurer. We will be happy to share our thoughts with you at any time!

And on the subject of our Chief Executive....The Leader will be saying a few words shortly.

And on the subject of the Leader...I think we should all congratulate him on his appearance on stage at a recent party conference. If there are any other party leaders present here today whose contributions I may have inadvertently missed, please accept my apologies. The duties of a modern Chairman are very onerous!

Finally, I regret to announce the deaths of two of our former County Councillors. One, Arthur Hill, and two, Robert Corry.

If any Councillor would like to say a few words about either of these two gentlemen, please indicate now.

If there are no further tributes, please stand for one-minute's silence in memory of Arthur Hill and Robert Corry.

Thank you all very much indeed. I would now like to move on to the Leader's Report.

END

[CHECK ON DELIVERY]

APPENDIX 2

**COUNTY COUNCIL 22 OCTOBER 2015 – ITEM 6
LEADER'S REPORT**

It is a considerable time since our last meeting back in July so there is much I have to report to Council:

Members will be aware that our past Chairman Colin Davidovitz felt obliged to resign from the Council because of ill health. I am pleased to say he is making some progress with his treatment and I am sure we all wish him well. Again members will know that a by-election is being held this very day in the Chandlers Ford Division to elect his successor.

Colin served for 14 years on the Council and several of those on the Executive where his knowledge and wisdom made an invaluable contribution. It is my intention at our January meeting to propose that Colin Davidovitz be made an Honorary Alderman. Many colleagues from across the Chamber have expressed support for such a nomination.

In September Her Majesty the Queen became Britain's longest serving Monarch and on behalf of the Council I wrote to Her Majesty expressing our good wishes on her achieving that record. Actually on the day - 9th September I invited Executive Members and the Corporate Management Team to drink a toast to Her Majesty under the roundel in the Great Hall and beside the statue of Queen Victoria who had just been knocked out of the record books.

On 24th September we received a letter from the Chief Clerk to the Queen - Mr Christopher Sanadamas saying the Queen had asked him to thank the Council and to send her best wishes to you all.

In August we received the excellent news that HRH the Duchess of Cornwall agreed to become Honorary President of the Sir Harold Hillier Gardens. All associated with the gardens were delighted with this personal accolade that has been conferred by HRH. By explanation the gardens already have two patrons - Lord Sainsbury the eminent philanthropist and Roy Lancaster the renowned horticulturalist and it was HRH's suggestion that she took the designation of President allowing the two worthy and honoured patrons to continue in that role. I would remind members that the gardens are attractive at all times of the year but especially worth a visit at this season that the Americans call the Fall.

Earlier this month a detachment of former members of the armed services who had been wounded in action came to Winchester as part of their 1000 mile walk around Britain for Walking For the Wounded. The Chairman and I were pleased to host a reception for them and other military personnel from across the county. Our thanks on that event should be recorded to the young people of Hampshire's Music Service who provided excellent musical entertainment for the occasion, as they do for so many events. I know a

number of members are looking forward to going to the Schools Prom at the end of November when young singers, dancers and musicians from the Hampshire Music Service will perform "The Mary Rose."

The public consultation on a Pattern of Divisions for the County Council in the future that is being conducted by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England concluded on the 3rd August and we anticipate receiving their preliminary proposals in November. As you know they have indicated they are minded to retain a council of 78 members - in November we will get their actual proposals and that will give an opportunity for the public to make further comment.

On a personal note I need to inform you I have been appointed by the Local Government Association to be the Chairman of the LGA Children and Young People Board - one of the most influential bodies of the LGA. I took advice from colleagues and our officers before agreeing to take it on because it will undoubtedly impose burdens of many meetings including sessions with Government Ministers and Officials. Those meetings are too often in London for my liking. I am grateful particularly to the Deputy Leader Keith Mans as I know this will increase the pressure on him. I am conscious that this important national position came to me because Hampshire's Children's Services gained one of the few OFSTED ratings of GOOD and it is important for local government's credibility in negotiations with central government and others that the chairman comes from an authority that is well regarded and I do not overestimate it when I say one of the best Children's Services Department in the country

This brings me to 4 other important even momentous events for the County Council.

- a) Syrian Refugees: our Head of Emergency Planning Mr Hoult is co-ordinating preparations across the county- closely liaising with Districts and Voluntary Sector and will attend an important meeting in the Home Office this afternoon- when we will learn more;
- b) All Party Parliamentary Group for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight met yesterday in the House of Commons. Representatives from the House of Lords give its all Party status. Grateful to Ranil Jayawardena for establishing this; and
- c) Devolution and Combined Authorities:

On 19th July as Leader of the County Council together with the Leaders of IOW, Southampton and Portsmouth and the 11 Districts of Hampshire we sent a letter to the Secretary of State for Local Government indicating an intent to explore the possibility of gaining devolved powers from Government as a Combined Authority.

On 4th September to meet a deadline set by the Government a more formal submission was made to the Chancellor of the Exchequer with

the same signatories plus the 2 chairmen of the National Parks and with indications of support from The Police and Crime Commissioner, The Chief Constable, the Chief fire Officer and the Chairmen of the Hampshire and IOW Fire and Rescue Authorities.

We were to be interviewed tomorrow in a so called “challenge” session by the Secretary of State but that has now been postponed at the last minute due to Parliamentary business but will take place shortly. I can report in a private note to me, having asked me to join him at the Conservative Party conference in Manchester, he thanked me for that speech which he said illustrated perfectly that devolution is for the whole country not just northern cities.

Last week I spoke to the AGM of HALC to explain the situation to Parish Councils.

Only yesterday I lunched with Sir Richard Leese – Leader of Manchester City council – also leading the Greater Manchester Combined Authority to learn lessons from him on how to develop our bid.

We are working closely with all partners. Nothing is committed yet and important to note we are not talking about any changes of boundaries- any changes of councils existing foundations and no new bureaucracy We are talking about getting more LOCAL say and influence over local affairs.

And finally...

At the end of this month we say farewell to three senior officers:

Dr Ruth Milton, our Director of Public Health leaves to take up a national post. Hers has been an important task to bring public health back in to local Government – Ruth – thank you.

Gill Duncan, our esteemed Director of Adult Services at far too young an age has decided to retire. Gill I speak for us all in expressing our thanks for the magnificent work you have done in one of the toughest jobs.

And finally, finally, our Chief Executive Andrew Smith is also to retire on the 31st October - I do wish to place on record my personal appreciation and I am sure I speak for you all for the great service Andrew has rendered the County Council and the people of Hampshire.

In the local government across England - not sure of Scotland - Hampshire is looked on with envy for the quality of all its Chief Officers and Andrew is renowned across the whole country. His skill and effectiveness in procurement is legendary. Hampshire's success as an outstanding council owes much to you.

Andrew we understand your reasons for standing down however much we may regret it. We certainly express our sympathy to you and Michelle at this sad time for your family but be assured you will always be remembered and honoured here in Hampshire.

I could go on a long while but will not, but two short words say it all.

Thank you.

Following the end of this meeting or at lunch time - whichever comes first there will be an informal reception to give Members an opportunity to say their own farewells and thank you's to Andrew.

When we get to Item 8 on the Agenda I will report the recommendation of the Member Appointment Panel to nominate the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Children's Services, Mr John Coughlan OBE, as the next Chief Executive.

END

[CHECK ON DELIVERY]

COUNTY COUNCIL 22 OCTOBER 2015 – ITEM 7

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

First Questions:

1. From Councillor Alan Dowden to the Executive Member for Adult Social Care:

“BUPA UK, HC-One, Care UK and Barchester are warning that the introduction of the national living wage it is expected to put hundreds of private nursing homes at risk of closing. They are claiming the extra costs from implementing the National Living Wage could see thousands of older people left without a home. We saw a similar situation in 2011 when Southern Cross collapsed and then the market came together to provide an ordered solution. What contingency plans will Hampshire County Council put in place when the national living wage is introduced?”

2. From Councillor Roger Huxstep to the Executive Member for Education:

“What is the County Council doing to support young people who need to cope with the new ‘Raising of the Participation Age in Education to 18’ legislation?”

3. From Councillor Ray Bolton to the Executive Lead Member for Children’s Services:

“Over the last 12 months, the programme of Short Breaks for Disabled Children has been the subject of a Children’s Services Select Committee task and finish group and also a public consultation. Please would the Executive Lead Member for Children’s Services advise the Council how these two information gathering activities will inform the current efficiencies review of this programme?”

4. From Councillor Jackie Porter to the Executive Lead Member for Children’s Services:

“In light of the expected proposal by the Prime Minister that universal free school meals will be abolished, what is the County Council’s view on the commitment made by this Council to universal FSM, the expenditure already made to upgrade kitchens in all schools and the planned improvement to health eating for our Hampshire children?”

5. From Councillor Martin Lyon to the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment:

“Given that Hampshire County Council is a strategic planning partner does the Lead Member agree that Whitehall should be able to overrule local councils who fail to deliver on housebuilding targets?”

6. From Councillor Chris Wood to the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment:

“The Newgate Lane North Improvement Works were meant to be completed by April; why were they not completed until August?”

Second Questions:

7. From Councillor Jackie Porter to the Executive Lead Member for Children’s Services:

“We are a rich county and as we all commit to 'Wearing Red' on the 23rd, shouldn't we be doing as we pledge and make a clear commitment to help young people of another race, as we would hope they would do for our own children? As Kent now has more refugee children than it can cope with, is Hampshire offering assistance for a few of the youngsters?”

8. Question from Councillor Martin Lyon to the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment:

“Does the Lead Member for the Economy, Transport and Environment consider that this council has fulfilled its obligations as stated within Appendix 2 of the PUSH agreement (dated 2014) and in accordance with the Terms of Reference Appendix 3 Table 1, and what evidence is there to support such a view?”

Third Question:

9. From Councillor Martin Lyon to the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment:

“The ‘Partnership for Urban South Hampshire’ PUSH agreement commits Hampshire County Council and its co-members (such as Eastleigh Borough Council) to ‘collective responsibility’ and to be ‘mutually accountable’ for delivering key objectives, strategy and activity - such as housing and related infrastructure. Does the lead member believe that a failure by any one member council to deliver its agreed outcomes represent an overall failure of this council in the delivery of stated PUSH objectives?”