

AT A MEETING of the Cabinet of HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held at the Castle on 5 FEBRUARY 2016.

**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	p	Seán Woodward
p	Mel Kendal		

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

**193. 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.

**194. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

All members of Cabinet were in attendance.

**195. 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.

**196. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2015 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**197. DEPUTATIONS**

No deputation requests had been received. It was noted that Councillor Wood would speak on item 6a with the agreement of the Chairman.

**198. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman welcomed all Members to the first Cabinet meeting of 2016. He updated Cabinet on activity that had taken place with regards to the devolution bid for Hampshire. He emphasised the importance of being at the forefront of negotiations in order to obtain guarantees with regards to infrastructure, including the protection of the environment. Noting the recent Local Government grant settlement, the Chairman highlighted the benefits of achieving greater local control and independence over finances.

**199. BUDGET SETTING 2016/17****A. REVENUE BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2016/17****B. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2016/17 TO 2018/19**

The Cabinet considered reports of the Director of Corporate Resources – Corporate Services (items 6a and 6b in the Minute Book) setting out the County Council's proposals for the revenue budget and precept for 2016/17 (6a) and setting out for approval the proposed capital programme for 2016/17 to 2018/19 of £563.6 million (6b).

Councillor Wood was invited to speak on item 6a by the Chairman. He acknowledged the difficult position that Local Government had been put into as a result of the grant settlement and stated his opposition to the cuts he feared would follow as a result. Councillor Wood suggested that Cabinet Members could exert greater pressure on the Government and called on the Chairman of Cabinet to resign in protest at the settlement.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Wood for his comments and confirming he would not resign, detailed the multiple angles that were being used to put Hampshire's case to Government.

The reports were introduced and Cabinet heard that financial pressures were being carefully managed. Details of the settlement, the concept of Core Spending Power and the downward trend in Revenue Support Grant were set out. It was noted that the Government's calculation criteria was based on an assumption of an increase in Council Tax across all Authorities, but nonetheless was more favourable to metropolitan Authorities than to shire Counties.

Budget proposals were explained, with the budget shortfall, the potential increase in income from a rise in Council Tax and the need to utilise all but £0.5 million of the Grant Equalisation Reserve (GER) highlighted. It was confirmed that the absence of GER would restrict future medium term financial planning options. Members heard that reductions to the cash limit across the Council

would total approximately £480 million by 2019/20, which amounted to 66 percent. Delivery of the Transformation to 2017 savings remained critical to provide the best possible starting position for the delivery of further savings to 2020.

Cabinet discussed the reports and the proposals in detail, noting the resilience that taking early action on savings had given the Council and acknowledging that the wider economic situation made similar settlements likely in future years. The benefit of the GER in protecting the Council from short term cuts was recognised and Members were supportive of re-growing the reserve in the future.

The success of the capital programme was highlighted and particular congratulations offered to the Economy, Transport and Environment department, which had been able to obtain substantial LEP funding to enhance the programme. It was noted that the school building programme was amongst the biggest in the Country and Members welcomed investment in the educational future of Hampshire.

Cabinet recognised that the reserves strategy followed over recent years had proven to be correct. The proposed increase in Council Tax equated to approximately £0.80/week for a Band D property and it was noted that this was still likely to leave Hampshire with one of the lowest precepts in the Country.

The recommendations within the Revenue Budget report (6a) were proposed and agreed, with a minor addition to highlight the £0.80/week level of Council Tax increase. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 1.

The recommendations within the Capital Programme report (6b) were proposed and agreed. The decision record is attached to these minutes as Appendix 2.

## 200. **SAFEGUARDING UPDATE**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Interim Director of Children's Services (item 7 in the Minute Book) providing an update on safeguarding of children activity within the Council.

The report was introduced with key areas highlighted to Members, including departmental success in the innovation programme and the future challenge of managing demand for the service.

Members welcomed the report, praising Hampshire social workers and thanking them for the outcomes being achieved. The Chairman's national role with the Local Government Association in relation to children and families was a reflection of success in Hampshire. The positive relationship with the Department for Education was noted and it was hoped that this integration could develop further. The role of the Troubled Families programme as a model for devolved services was also recognised. Cabinet also acknowledged that there was no room for complacency in order to maintain high levels of performance.

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

201. **THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM FOR HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Executive (item 8 in the Minute Book) regarding developments affecting the Corporate Management Team (CMT) for the County Council.

The report was introduced and Members noted that the proposals were driven by the opportunity to consider the structure of CMT at a point when there were three positions being filled on an interim basis. It was clarified that the proposals did not amount to substantial change as stability was sought to continue to deliver the Transformation programme. Cabinet heard that the changed status for the Director of Public Health would continue to allow Public Health to retain a high profile within the organisation and was in line with other Authorities.

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