

AT A MEETING of the Cabinet of HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held at the Castle on 21 MARCH 2016.

Chairman:
p Councillor Roy Perry

Councillors:

p	Peter Edgar	p	Mel Kendal
p	Liz Fairhurst	p	Keith Mans
p	Andrew Gibson	p	Stephen Reid
p	Rob Humby	p	Patricia Stallard
p	Andrew Joy		

Also present with the agreement of the Chairman: Councillors J. Bennison, R. Bolton, J. England, J. Glen, R. Huxstep, A. McNair-Scott and J. Porter.

202. 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.

203. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All members of Cabinet were in attendance.

204. 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.

205. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2016 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

206. DEPUTATIONS

No deputation requests had been received. It was noted that Councillor Porter would speak on items 6, 7 and 9 with the agreement of the Chairman.

207. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman drew Members' attention to a community event he had recently attended to clear litter from the local area, praising the value of the community working together for a mutual benefit.

A recent change to the Cabinet's membership was announced and it was confirmed that Councillor Woodward had resigned due to a potential conflict of interests. Councillor Woodward was thanked for his contribution as the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment and Councillor Humby was welcomed as the new Executive Member for Environment and Transport. It was confirmed that economic development responsibilities had been added to the portfolio of the Executive Member for Income and Capital Receipts.

The Chairman confirmed the position on the devolution bid, explaining his motivation for authority to sit at a level at which services can be best delivered, which was currently not the case due to over-centralisation.

208. TRANSFORMATION TO 2017: REPORT No. 6

The Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Executive (item 6 in the Minute Book) providing an update on the Transformation to 2017 Programme.

The current position was set out and it was noted in particular that work was ongoing on the digital programme, to facilitate other elements of transformation.

With the agreement of the Chairman, Councillor Jackie Porter addressed Cabinet. She questioned the breakdown of activity by colour status, in particular asking for clarification on what was included in the red category. Councillor Porter criticised the salami slicing approach to reducing spend and requested that she have the opportunity to be involved in the examination of changes to services.

The suggestion that a salami slicing approach had been used was rejected and it was confirmed that careful consideration had been given to each service area. A breakdown was set out of the transformation activity and related savings included in each colour category and Cabinet noted in particular the value of the digital strategy to underpin the wider programme. It was noted that reports on the progress of Transformation to 2017 were regularly presented to the Policy and Resources Select Committee.

The recommendations within the report were proposed and agreed. The decision record is attached to these minutes as Appendix 1.

209. SUPERFAST BROADBAND IN HAMPSHIRE

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services (item 7 in the Minute Book) providing an update on Hampshire's Superfast Broadband Programme.

The importance of high speed broadband was acknowledged and progress with new contracts was detailed. It was confirmed that an additional 220,000 premises had been connected and work was underway to support the final four percent who were not.

With the agreement of the Chairman, Councillor Porter addressed Cabinet, questioning whether the provision being made was sufficiently future proof with regards download speed. She acknowledged that many people believe telephone and broadband infrastructure to be a public utility and not a commercial business, which is considerably more difficult to influence. Relating her experience of working with communities to secure a deal with BT, Councillor Porter recognised the difficulties common to many cases and supported tackling these.

Cabinet acknowledged that BT had its own priorities as a business and also discussed that regulations on state aid, restricted Councils from funding some areas of development. Members noted that there was currently no compulsion on housing developers to include broadband provision, nor was broadband speed a standard search for house purchasing, which had led to frustration in the past.

With an amendment to recognise the importance of supporting the four percent without superfast broadband connectivity, the recommendations within the report were proposed and agreed. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 2.

210. HAMPSHIRE PENSION FUND PANEL AND BOARD – REPORT DUE TO DCLG

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Corporate Resources – Corporate Services (item 8 in the Minute Book) regarding the Hampshire Pension Fund Panel and Board.

Members heard that the agreement from the Secretary of State for the establishment of the combined Pension Fund Panel and Board had included the requirement for a progress report to be submitted after 12 months. The draft progress report was proposed to Cabinet for approval.

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

211. ADULT SAFEGUARDING

The Cabinet considered a report of the interim Director of Adult Services (item 9 in the Minute Book) regarding Adult Safeguarding in Hampshire.

The report was introduced and key sections highlighted, in particular relating to prevention and intervention, the pressures caused by deprivation of liberty safeguards, the number of referrals and the outcome of the Mazars review, on which the resolution of the HOSC was noted. Members also noted their concern about the expensive and cumbersome process of deprivation of liberty orders.

With the agreement of the Chairman, Councillor Porter addressed Cabinet. Based on her own recent experience, Councillor Porter raised concerns about the financial safeguarding of vulnerable people, in particular calling the investigation process and approach of the police into question.

It was acknowledged that many cases were very complex and financial abuse was often difficult to tackle because friends and family members were involved and victims were not prepared to make a formal complaint. However Cabinet were assured that the County Council was doing everything possible to support vulnerable people.

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

212. EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT IN HAMPSHIRE 2015: RESULTS AND PRIORITIES

The Cabinet considered a report of the interim Director of Children's Services (item 10 in the Minute Book) regarding educational attainment in Hampshire in 2015.

The report was introduced and it was highlighted that the report presented to Cabinet had been published prior to Government announcements proposing that all schools become Academies. Attainment levels according to school status in comparison with previous years were detailed to Members, it was explained that due to changes in the measuring of attainment future comparisons would not be possible.

Cabinet recognised the high level of attainment from Hampshire schools, noting that the quality of schools also contributed to the desirability of the area as a place to live. There was support for the County Council remaining an integral part of the provision of education in the area and it was felt that the results achieved in Hampshire demonstrated that a change of school governance was not necessary.

The recommendations within the report were proposed and agreed. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 5.