

Hampshire

At a Meeting of Hampshire County Council held at The Castle,
Winchester on 18 February 2016.

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>p</i> Adam Carew	<i>p</i> Warwick Lovegrove
<i>p</i> Christopher Carter, RD*	<i>p</i> Martin Lyon
<i>p</i> Roz Chadd	<i>p</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>p</i> Ken Moon
<i>p</i> Criss Connor	<i>a</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> Alan Dowden	<i>p</i> Roger Price, JP
<i>p</i> Peter Edgar	<i>p</i> Stephen Reid
<i>p</i> Jacqui England	<i>p</i> Alan Rice, TD
<i>p</i> Keith Evans	<i>a</i> George Ringrow
<i>p</i> Liz Fairhurst	<i>p</i> Steve Rippon-Swaine
<i>p</i> Philip Fawkes	<i>p</i> Timothy Rolt
<i>a</i> Ray Finch	<i>p</i> Frank Rust
<i>p</i> Jane Frankum	<i>p</i> David Simpson
<i>p</i> Andrew Gibson	<i>p</i> Patricia Stallard
<i>p</i> Judith Grajewski	<i>p</i> Mark Staplehurst
<i>p</i> Chris Greenwood	<i>p</i> Elaine Still
<i>p</i> Brian Gurden	<i>p</i> Bruce Tennent
<i>p</i> David Harrison	<i>p</i> Tom Thacker
<i>p</i> Marge Harvey	<i>p</i> Ken Thornber, CBE
<i>a</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 Aldermen Phynette Dickens, Colin Davidovitz, Roger Kimber and Michael Woodhall were also in attendance.

218. 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.

219. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Phil Bailey, Ferris Cowper, Ray Finch, Edward Heron, Rupert Kyrle, Andy Moore and George Ringrow and from Honorary Aldermen Patricia Banks, Susan Glasspool, Felicity Hindson and Marilyn Tucker.

220. 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.

The Chairman reminded Members that a general dispensation had been granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel in regard to the provisions of Section 31(4)(a) and (b) of the Localism Act enabling all Members of the County Council to participate and vote in any business of the County Council relating to the setting of the Council Tax or Precepts.

221. MINUTES.

The minutes of the Special Meeting of the County Council held on 7 January 2016 was confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

The Ordinary Meeting of the County Council also held on 7 January 2016 was confirmed as a correct record subject to noting under minute 215, as requested by Councillor Tony Hooke, that he left the meeting in protest at that stage. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

222. DEPUTATIONS.

Deputations were received from Sarah Wood regarding highways infrastructure at the Wellesley development in Aldershot and from Katherine Bird and Colette Court regarding breastfeeding support services across Hampshire.

223. 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's Concert held on 30 January 2016 in Winchester Cathedral was highlighted combining the musical talent of 100 choristers from Geissen in Germany alongside the Hampshire Youth Orchestra, which proved to be a very successful and entertaining event.

The Chairman also highlighted that the County Council and the Lord Lieutenant's Office will be hosting a special service in the Cathedral to celebrate the 90th birthday of Her Majesty The Queen on Sunday 24 April 2106.

The Chairman's full report is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 1.

224. LEADER'S REPORT.

The Leader reported on a number of matters, in particular the launch of the new electronic "Your Hampshire" as a substitute for the tri annual Hampshire Now, supporting the digital strategy and at the same time making significant savings; the latest position in regard to the potential for Devolution of central government powers to a Hampshire and Isle of Wight Combined Authority; the move of the former Chief Constable for Hampshire, Andy Marsh, to the role of Chief Constable for Somerset and Avon and next week's Winchester Pride March.

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

225. 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 and Executive Members responded accordingly. As the number of questions listed exceeded the time allocation for questions, Members voted to vary Standing Orders on this occasion to allow an additional five minutes to enable all the first questions submitted to be answered.

226. APPOINTMENTS.

The Council considered a report from the Chief Executive (Item 8 in the Minute Book) proposing a number of changes to co-opted membership of

the County Council's committees and panels. Councillor Chris Wood also proposed changes to the UKIP Group's membership on several committees and panels.

RESOLVED:

- a) That Mrs Caroline Edmondson be appointed to fill the vacancy for a Co-opted Member on the Children and Young People Select Committee as the Parent Governor representative for Primary Schools.
- b) That Miss Margaret Boyne be appointed to replace Mrs Pat Fry as a Co-opted Member on the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) representing the United Reformed Church.
- c) That Mrs Sushma Sahajpal be appointed to replace Major Suryaparsad Uphadya as a Co-opted Member on the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) as the Hindu representative.
- d) That Councillor Philip Fawkes replaces Councillor Martin Lyon on the Children and Young People Select Committee and that Councillor Fawkes becomes the UKIP Group's Spokesperson on that Committee.
- e) That Councillor Martin Lyon replaces Councillor Philip Fawkes on the Economy, Transport and Environment Select Committee.
- f) That Councillor Chris Wood replaces Councillor Chris Lagdon on the Employment in Hampshire County Council (EHCC) Committee.
- g) That Councillor Chris Lagdon replaces Councillor Chris Wood as a full Member of the Children and Families Advisory Panel and that Councillor Chris Wood becomes the Substitute Member.
- h) That Councillor Andy Moore replaces Councillor Chris Lagdon as one of the County Council's representatives on the New Forest National Park Authority.

227. REVENUE BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2016/17 AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2016/17 – 2018/19.

The Council received the Lead6r's Budget Speech regarding the Revenue Budget and Precept for 2016/17, as assisted by the Executive Member for Income and Capital Receipts in regard to the Capital Programme for the period 2016/17 to 2017/18. The full Speech is available to view on the County Council's website at www.hants.gov.uk/council/meetings.htm by typing in the reference number 7342.

It was noted that Councillor Tony Hooke left the meeting at 12.13pm and re-joined the meeting at 3.01pm.

The Council considered the recommendations of the Cabinet (Item 9 in the Minute Book). Responses were received from the Opposition Group Leaders and in the absence of any new proposals the recommendations were put to the vote. In accordance with Standing Order 22.2 a recorded vote was conducted, the outcome of which was:

For: 44
Against: 23
Abstain: None

The full recorded vote is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 4.

RESOLVED:

REVENUE

That the County Council approve:

- a) the Treasurer's report under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 and take this into account when determining the budget and precept for 2016/17 (Appendix 7 to Annex A)
- b) the Revised Budget for 2015/16 set out in Appendix 2 to Annex A
- c) the Revenue Budget for 2016/17 as set out in Annex 1 to this Part I report
- d) the one off capital related priorities totalling £12.5m and the recurring increase in the Policy and Resources feasibility budget of £430,000 (as set out in paragraphs 4.24 to 4.33 of Annex A)
- e) the total **budget requirement** for the general expenses of the County Council for the year beginning 1 April 2016 being £733,798,968.
- f) the **council tax requirement** for the County Council for the year beginning 1 April 2016 being £532,659,476
- g) the County Council's band D council tax for the year beginning 1 April 2016 be £1,079.28, an increase of £41.40 or 3.99% of which 2.00% is specifically for adults' social care
- h) the County Council's council tax for the year beginning 1 April 2016 for properties in each tax band be:

	£
Band A	719.52
Band B	839.44
Band C	959.36
Band D	1,079.28
Band E	1,319.12
Band F	1,558.96
Band G	1,798.80
Band H	2,158.56

- i) that precepts be issued totalling £532,659,476 on the billing authorities in Hampshire, requiring the payment in such instalments and on such date set by them previously notified to the County Council, in proportion to the tax base of each billing authorities area as determined by them and as set out below:

Basingstoke and Deane	62,760.20
East Hampshire	48,627.61
Eastleigh	43,336.07
Fareham	42,005.70
Gosport	25,945.90
Hart	38,487.21
Havant	39,290.50
New Forest	69,632.30
Rushmoor	30,172.66
Test Valley	46,439.00
Winchester	46,835.09

- j) the treasury management and annual investment strategies, prudential and financial health indicators for 2016/17, in accordance with the recommendations in Appendix 8 to Annex A.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME

That the County Council approve:

- k) the capital programme for 2016/17 and the provisional programmes for 2017/18 and 2018/19 as set out in Appendix 3 of Annex B.
- l) that the Director of Corporate Resources be allowed in consultation with the Executive Member for Policy and Resources to add Adults extra care schemes to the capital programme up to a limit of £35m to be funded by prudential borrowing, subject to a satisfactory business case being approved.

228. HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL PAY STATEMENT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2016/17.

The Council considered the report of the Chief Executive (Item 10 in the Minute Book), as presented by Councillor Stephen Reid in his capacity as Chairman of the Employment in Hampshire County Council (EHCC) Committee, which sought approval of the County Council's Pay Statement for the financial year 2016/17 as set out in the Annex to the report. In the interests of completeness Councillor Reid reported the introduction of a new enhanced voluntary redundancy scheme at a lower cost than the previous scheme, which expired in March 2015, and targeted at a different audience.

RESOLVED:

That the County Council approve the Pay Statement for 2016/17 as detailed in the report to the Employment in Hampshire County Council (EHCC) Committee (Annex and Appendix C to the Part I report), and agrees that EHCC Committee remains the appropriate Committee to agree Chief Officer remuneration for Chief Officers above Grade K, including individual salary offers in respect of any new Chief Officer appointments, any changes to Chief Officer salaries after appointment and any severance packages for Chief Officers leaving the County Council in accordance with the Pay Statement.

229. ADOPTION OF SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENTS FOR MINERALS AND WASTE SAFEGUARDING AND OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT.

The Council considered a report from the Cabinet (Item 11 in the Minute Book) recommending adoption of two Supplementary Planning Documents to the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan, namely Minerals and Waste Safeguarding in Hampshire and Oil and Gas Development in Hampshire resulting from the Cabinet's consideration of these documents at its meeting on 7 December 2015.

During the course of the debate Councillor Martin Lyon, seconded by Councillor Tony Hooke proposed the following:

“That the Council sets up a forum that meets occasionally which is open to all Members of the Council to receive information and discuss issues relating to oil and gas exploration in the administrative area of Hampshire County Council.”

The importance of this forum not making any planning decisions, which was the remit of the County Council’s Regulatory Committee, was emphasised.

RESOLVED:

That the County Council:

- a) adopts the Minerals and Waste Safeguarding in Hampshire Supplementary Planning Document, in appendix 1 of the Cabinet report, as supplementary guidance for the adopted Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan.
- b) adopts the Oil and Gas Development in Hampshire Supplementary Planning Document, in appendix 2 of the Cabinet report, as supplementary guidance for the adopted Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan.
- c) delegates authority to the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment to undertake all necessary steps to secure the process of statutory adoption including the publication of formal notices on the adoption of the supplementary planning documents.
- d) sets up a forum that meets occasionally which is open to all members of the Council to receive information and discuss issues relating to oil and gas exploration in the administrative area of Hampshire County Council.

230. NOTICES OF MOTION.

Four Notices of Motion had been received in accordance with Standing Order 18.1 and were considered in the order in which they were received. In respect of Motion 12a) Councillor Tod declared a disclosable personal interest as the Chief Executive of the Men’s Health Forum which receives funding from bodies referred to in the Motion.

- a) Proposed by Councillor Alan Dowden and seconded by Councillor Adrian Collett:

“Hampshire County Council urges the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon David Cameron MP, and the Sec. of State for Health, Jeremy Hunt MP, to release immediately Public Health England’s Review report on the child obesity strategy. Dr Sarah Wollaston MP, Chair of the House of Common’s Health Committee, has attacked the government’s decision to delay publishing the Review that was

carried out in order to find ways of reducing the public's sugar intake.

Hampshire County Council further seeks that the government

- Introduce, through parliament, a sugar tax to discourage the amount of sugar people consume.
- Implement legislation for clearer labelling of the sugar content in drinks and food products, as suggested by Jamie Oliver the celebrity chef when he gave evidence to the Parliament's Health Select Committee.

These changes are essential for people to make informed choices and to counteract the impending damage to the public's health and the resultant impact upon our health services."

Councillor Patricia Stallard, seconded by Councillor Roger Huxstep proposed the following amendment:

Text with 'strike through' = delete words
Text in *italics* = additional words

"Hampshire County Council ~~urges~~ *welcomes* the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon David Cameron MP's ~~and the Sec. of State for Health, Jeremy Hunt MP,~~ *to release immediately statement that he will announce details of the child obesity strategy later this year.*

*This Council recognises a need to take account of Public Health England's ~~Review~~ *Sugar Reduction Evidence* report ~~on~~ *and* the child obesity ~~strategy~~ *report* ~~Dr Sarah Wollaston MP, Chair of the House of Common's Health Committee.~~ *has attacked the government's decision to delay publishing the Review that was carried out in order to find ways of reducing the public's sugar intake.**

Hampshire County Council ~~further seeks that~~ *recognises that no single measure will be sufficient alone to tackle childhood obesity and urges the Government to carefully prepare a fully worked up strategy having considered bold measures, including:*

- ~~Introduce, through parliament,~~ a sugar tax to discourage the amount of sugar people consume
- ~~Implement legislation for~~ clearer labelling of the sugar content in drinks and food products, as suggested by Jamie Oliver the celebrity chef when he gave evidence to the Parliament's Health Select Committee
- *tougher controls on marketing and advertising and price promotion of unhealthy food and drink*

~~These~~ *recognising some* changes are essential for people to make informed choices and to counteract the impending damage to the public's health and the resultant impact upon our health services."

Councillors Dowden and Collett as the proposer and seconder of the Motion confirmed that the proposed amendment was acceptable to them, and it was therefore

RESOLVED:

"Hampshire County Council welcomes the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon David Cameron MP's statement that he will announce details of the child obesity strategy later this year.

This Council recognises a need to take account of Public Health England's Sugar Reduction Evidence report and the child obesity report of the House of Common's Health Committee.

Hampshire County Council recognises that no single measure will be sufficient alone to tackle childhood obesity and urges the Government to carefully prepare a fully worked up strategy having considered bold measures including

- a sugar tax to discourage the amount of sugar people consume
- clearer labelling of the sugar content in drinks and food products, as suggested by Jamie Oliver the celebrity chef when he gave evidence to the Parliament's Health Select Committee
- tougher controls on marketing and advertising and price promotion of unhealthy food and drink

recognising some changes are essential for people to make informed choices and to counteract the impending damage to the public's health and the resultant impact upon our health services."

- b) Proposed by Councillor David Harrison and seconded by Councillor Mark Staplehurst:

"That the Council forms a cross party working group to consider and make recommendations to the Council on a return to a Committee system of governance, to replace the Cabinet system."

Following a brief discussion and pursuant to Standing Order 19.3, Councillors Harrison and Staplehurst withdrew their Motion and would consider the possibility of submitting the Motion at a future meeting.

- c) Proposed by Councillor Malcolm Wade and seconded by Councillor Jackie Porter:

“This council notes that:

- Corporate tax evasion and avoidance are having a damaging impact on the world’s poorest countries, to such a level that it is costing them far more than they receive in aid
- This is costing the UK as much as £30bn a year
- This practice also has a negative effect on small and medium-sized companies who pay more tax proportionately.

This council further notes that the UK Government has taken steps to tackle the issue of tax avoidance and evasion by issuing Procurement Policy Note 03/14 (PPN 03/14). This applies to all central government contracts worth more than £5m.

This council also notes the existence of voluntary schemes promoting tax compliance such as the Fair Tax Mark, which can serve as an independent means of verification.

In early 2015 new regulations required public bodies, including councils, to ask procurement qualification questions of all companies for tenders over £ 164,000 for service contracts and £4.1m for works contracts. However, these questions are not as detailed as the PPN 03/14.

This council takes tax avoidance seriously and believes that bidders for council contracts should be asked to account for their past tax record, using the standards in PPN 03/14, rather than the lower standards in the recent regulations.

This council therefore calls for procurement procedures to be amended to require all companies bidding for service contracts and works contracts to be aligned with the current EU procurement thresholds for public bodies and to self-certify that they are fully tax-compliant in line with central government practice using the standards in PPN 03/14.

This council asks the Cabinet to publicise this policy and to report on its implementation annually.”

Councillor Wade as the proposer of the Motion confirmed that subsequent to the submission of the Motion, new information had come to light and it was therefore not necessary to move the Motion as submitted. Councillor Porter as the seconder of the Motion agreed therefore in accordance with Standing Order 19.3 the Motion was withdrawn.

- d) Proposed by Councillor Timothy Rolt and seconded by Councillor Jackie Porter:

“This motion calls on Hampshire County Council to listen to the evidence supplied in last month's deputation by Lindsey Lawman and to continue to fund the current Breast Feeding Drop-In Centres in the Andover, Basingstoke, Eastleigh and Winchester areas after the current funding runs out, for an estimated cost of just £ 62,000 per annum and to properly investigate the need for such services in other parts of the county.”

Councillor Roger Huxstep proposed that pursuant to Standing Order 18.4 the Motion be referred to the Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the Motion, as submitted, be referred to the Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee and to report back to the County Council as soon as practicable.

231. HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY.

No questions had been received pursuant to Standing Order 16.3 and there was no report of the Authority on this occasion.

232. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION.

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

- a) The Cabinet/Leader
 - * Safeguarding Update
- b) Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside
 - * Country Parks Transformation – Heritage Lottery Funding
- c) Executive Member for Health and Public Health
 - * Level 3 Sexual Health Services
- d) Executive Member for Adult Social Care
 - * Day opportunities for people with a learning disability
 - * Adult Services Grant Programme
- e) Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
 - * Grants from Children's Services Integrated Grants Programme 2016/17
 - * Two Year Old Grant Funding 2015/16
- f) Executive Member for Education
 - * Educational attainment in Hampshire 2015: results and priorities

The meeting closed at 4.55 pm.

APPENDIX 1**CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

I'd like to welcome our esteemed Honorary Aldermen to our February full council meeting. They are: Phrynnette Dickens, Colin Davidovitz, Roger Kimber and Michael Woodhall.

I would also like to congratulate and welcome to this meeting the new Leader of the UKIP Group, Councillor Chris Wood. He must be the youngest leader of any group that we have ever had on this council. I would like to add that it has been my privilege to serve with three Conservative Leaders over my 19 years with the County Council. Likewise, it is also my privilege to have served with four leaders of UKIP over the last 19 months.

It is my pleasure to inform you that this week Sue May has returned to her post in the Chairman's Office, after half-a-year's absence improving her health. It is a delight to see her back, albeit part-time, and on behalf of all of you present I wish to her a full recovery and back to full time work. We have missed her.

As you can see from the Chairman's engagement list [previously circulated], the Vice Chairman and I have attended about 10 events on behalf of the County Council since our last meeting. I would like to thank Councillor Chapman for diligently standing in for me on the four occasions that I have had a clash of dates.

In particular, I'd like to mention the Chairman's Concert on the evening of 30th January, held in Winchester Cathedral. Try to imagine the combined musical talents of 100 choristers from Geissen, Germany, alongside our 100-strong Hampshire Youth Orchestra. All of this, in the Cathedral, made larger by the absence of chairs. One-and-a-half hours of beautifully orchestrated pieces seemed to speed by and the effects with special lighting and video clips were mesmerising. Yesterday, our Youth Orchestra left for Germany as Geissen is now reciprocating our hospitality and tomorrow night the same concert will be performed, for a second time, for a German audience.

Jill Larner, of our Hampshire Music Service, had received countless accolades for this great success, and she has asked me to pass on her thanks to the largest contingent of county councillors that she has ever seen at a HYO musical event. In addition, this council has a new hero. He is a County Councillor of only three years standing, who is fluent in German and kindly offered his services not only to conduct the Geissen youngsters around the Great Hall, but also produced a perfect translation of my welcome speech on the night. Ladies and Gentlemen, I give you...Councillor Timothy Rolt.

Forthcoming Attractions

Wednesday, 2nd March, 10.30am – two thousand Hampshire school pupils will be performing diverse musical arrangements at the Anvil in Basingstoke.

Monday, 14th March, 9.50am – there will be a joint Winchester City/Hampshire County Council 'Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth' event outside the Great Hall.

Sunday 24th April, 3.30pm – St George's Day

It is my privilege to inform you that both HCC and the Lord Lieutenant's Office will be hosting a special service in the Cathedral to celebrate the 90th birthday of Her Majesty The Queen. Please be seated by 2.30pm.

And now, back to business.

We have a lot of work to do to decide on the revenue budget and precept for 2016/17 and the Capital Programme for 2016/17 to 2017/18. I anticipate a long day, and therefore I would like first to share with you the important subject of lunch.

Regardless of the item under discussion at the time, the lunch break will last for one and half hours, and a customary suspension of hostilities will be called for at a natural break between 12.30 and 1pm.

That ends my announcements and I would now like to hand over to Councillor Roy Perry for the Leader's Report.

END

[CHECK ON DELIVERY]

APPENDIX 2**LEADER'S REPORT**

The month since our last meeting has been very significant in financial matters but I will address those issues for the most part in the Budget debate. However, I would like to remind members of the new electronic "Your Hampshire" as a substitute for the tri annual Hampshire Now. This week sees the launch of this new monthly digital magazine keeping residents' connected to the County Council's latest news and activities.

It is another way we are maximising the opportunities provided by technology to deliver up to date information more quickly and easily to residents, supporting the digital strategy and at the same time making significant savings.

Development of Your Hampshire has been informed by the response from residents through a questionnaire promoted in the winter edition of Hampshire Now. Feedback in the Shaping Hampshire consultation last summer showed that residents support the drive to make the most of our digital channels in this way. We will monitor closely the number of hits it receives

On your behalf I attended a reception to thank Hampshire's former Chief Constable Andy Marsh. I am sure we all wish him well as he returns to his home county as Chief Constable in Somerset and Avon.

Also on Police matters I attended the Police and Crime Commissioner's Crime Reduction Alliance Panel specifically to address the issues of terrorism and the county's readiness for any eventuality. Sadly all agencies have to remain in a state of high alert and we have no reason to believe the terrorism risk in Hampshire is any less here than in any other part of the country. As we all know the political situation in the Middle East which fuels much of this problem around the world shows little sign of improvement and even in Hampshire we cannot insulate ourselves from the problems that causes. I think it is important that we record our appreciation to the Police for the role they perform day in day out in protecting us alongside the other blue light agencies.

Fortunately despite incessant rain this winter our own highways staff have not been too stretched this winter in having to deal with flooding or ice or snow, although there have been some problems. However, they are permanently alert and ready to handle issues as and when they arise. They too deserve the acknowledgement of the Council.

Next week Hampshire's LGBT Community will be marking Gay History month with the second Winchester Pride March. I have agreed they can hold a reception at the Winchester Discovery Centre at which I will, as a firm believer in individual rights, be happy to give a supportive speech as will the Police and Crime Commissioner and the University of Winchester's Vice Chancellor.

Much of my time in January has been consumed with meetings with Leaders of the Districts and Unitary authorities in ongoing discussions about the potential for Devolution of central government powers to a Hampshire and Isle of Wight

Combined Authority.

In particular there has been a meeting with a junior Minister at the Department for Communities and Local Government - Mr James Wharton MP who seemed determined to thrust a "Metro Mayor" on this part of the country. He praised our bid and said if only we would accept a Metro Mayor the Hampshire and Isle of Wight bid, which was already the outstanding bid in the south, would be fast tracked.

As your Leader I have no mandate to agree that. I certainly said to Mr Wharton this is not, in any event, a metropolitan area. I must confess I have a concern that if you call an area a metropolitan area it fairly quickly metamorphoses into that. Nor am I convinced, and I say this as Leader of the Council, that handing over much power into the hands of one person is a good thing. Under our present system a Council Leader is directly accountable to 78 members of his Council. The members are answerable and accountable to their electorates within the 78 local divisions. An Executive Mayor once elected may have to listen but need take no account of a Council. Nor would a Mayor be in the same close contact with Divisions as we all are. Was it in Huddersfield where they elected a chicken as Mayor? And I offer no comments on the former Mayor of Tower Hamlets and the problems there. I have no doubts that many issues determined remotely in Whitehall and Westminster could and should be subject to more local determination, skills, infrastructure, transport but I'm not at all convinced it should be in the hands of one person. If Manchester wants a Metro-Mayor, good luck to them. To my mind an elected Mayor would dramatically reduce the role and significance of elected councillors and it seems more to do with Local Government re-organisation than Devolution. Devolution in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland operates with First Ministers who draw their authority from their elected Parliament or Assemblies to which they are answerable. What is wrong with that?

I wish the Government would pay more attention to transferring powers to local government rather than trying to transfer the powers of local councils to one person.

What attracts me to Devolution is bringing power closer to the electors. I am not convinced that limiting the powers of local councillors who know and live and work in the 78 divisions is a good thing.

END

[CHECK ON DELIVERY]

APPENDIX 3

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

First Questions:

1. From Councillor Ray Bolton to the Executive Member for Education:

“Would the Executive Member for Education give the Council a brief explanation of the final adjusted GCSE results for 2015 and the overall performance of Hampshire Schools?”

2. From Councillor Chris Wood to the Leader (will be answered by the Executive Member for Human Resources & Performance):

“Does the Leader of the Council believe spending £44m on redundancy payments, be they compulsory or voluntary, to reduce the number of staff Hampshire County Council employs by over 3,000 since 2010 represents value for money?”

3. From Councillor Keith House to the Executive Member for Policy & Resources:

“Will the Cabinet Member detail the average time taken to issue a) a new Blue Badge and b) a renewal Blue Badge and detail what percentage of applications take more than three weeks to process?”

4. From Councillor Jackie Porter to the Executive Member for Health and Public Health:

“What progress is being made to react and respond fully to the deputation by Lindsay Lawman on her request to continue to provide breastfeeding services through mentoring and higher level support as raised at our last Council Meeting?”

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

“Given that Hampshire County Council is a key stakeholder within PUSH and the Solent LEP, does the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment consider that the new infrastructure proposals, as outlined within the various district local plans are realistic, affordable and deliverable, and if not then why not?”

6. From Councillor Tim Rolt to the Executive Member for Health and Public Health:

“Why has the progress of the Task and Finish Group looking at the provision of Breastfeeding Counselling Drop-In services in Hampshire, been so slow, given that present grant funding is due to expire over the

next few months in the Andover, Basingstoke, Eastleigh and Winchester areas, thereby in danger of giving the impression that the result of the Group's efforts is likely to be a foregone conclusion, with seemingly very little notice being taken of all the excellent evidence being supplied to it about the enormous health benefits and potential long term financial savings for the NHS of continuing with the existing services?"

7. From Councillor Martin Tod to the Executive Member for Health and Public Health:

"The Howard League for Penal Reform reports that Winchester Prison has the highest regional figure for deaths in custody in 2015, according to new Ministry of Justice data. What can the Council do as the body responsible for public health to scrutinise this and support change to improve the situation?"

Second Questions:

8. From Councillor Chris Wood to the Executive Member for Economy, Transport & Environment:

"Would the Executive Member please provide an update on the progress of the funding bid for the Stubbington Bypass?"

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