

Hampshire

At a Meeting of Hampshire County Council held at The Castle, Winchester
on 13 May 2016.

Chairman:

p Councillor Keith Chapman MBE

Vice-Chairman:

p Councillor Graham Burgess

Councillor:

p Phil Bailey
p John Bennison
p Ray Bolton
p Ann Briggs
p Zilliah Brooks
p Rita Burgess
p Adam Carew
p Christopher Carter RD*
p Roz Chadd
p Peter Chegwyn
a Charles Choudhary
p Vaughan Clarke
p Adrian Collett
p Criss Connor
p Mark Cooper
p Shaun Cully
p Alan Dowden
p Peter Edgar
p Jacqui England
p Keith Evans
p Liz Fairhurst
a Philip Fawkes
p Ray Finch
p Jane Frankum
p Andrew Gibson
p Jonathan Glen
p Judith Grajewski
p Chris Greenwood
p Brian Gurden
p David Harrison
p Marge Harvey
p Edward Heron
p Geoff Hockley
p Tony Hooke
p Keith House
p Rob Humby
p Roger Huxstep
p Andrew Joy

Councillor:

p David Keast
a Mark Kemp-Gee
p Mel Kendal
p Rupert Kyrle
p Chris Lagdon
p Peter Latham
p Warwick Lovegrove
p Martin Lyon
p Robin McIntosh
p Anna McNair Scott
p Keith Mans
p Fiona Mather
p Chris Matthews
P Floss Mitchell
p Ken Moon
p Andy Moore
p Frank Pearce
p Roy Perry
p Jackie Porter
p Roger Price, JP
p Stephen Reid
p Alan Rice, TD
p Steve Rippon-Swaine
p Timothy Rolt
p Frank Rust
p David Simpson
p Patricia Stallard
a Mark Staplehurst
p Elaine Still
p Bruce Tennent
p Tom Thacker
p Ken Thornber, CBE
a Martin Tod
a Malcolm Wade
p John Wall
a Sharyn Wheale
p Chris Wood
p Seán D. T. Woodward

Honorary Aldermen Marilyn Tucker and Michael Woodhall were also in attendance.

233. 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.

234. OUTGOING CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

At this point in the proceedings Councillor Jonathan Glen presented his final announcements as the Outgoing Chairman, expanding on the wide range of duties undertaken to represent and promote the County Council and its strong community leadership role. Councillor Glen extended his thanks to the Members and officers of the County Council and to Mrs Sharon Glen, who had supported him during his time as Chairman of the Council. The full speech can be viewed via this link <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings> and entering item reference 7592 in the key word search.

235. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Charles Choudhary, Philip Fawkes, Mark Kemp-Gee, Mark Staplehurst, Martin Tod and Sharyn Wheale. Apologies were also received from Honorary Aldermen Patricia Banks, John Bryant, Colin Davidovitz, Phrynnette Dickens and Susan Glasspool.

It was noted that Councillors Adrian Collett, Mel Kendal, Frank Pearce and John Wall would be joining the meeting as soon as possible.

236. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

The Chief Executive as the Proper Officer called for nominations. Councillor Roy Perry, seconded by Councillor Stephen Reid proposed that Councillor Keith Chapman MBE be elected Chairman of the Council until the Annual General Meeting in 2017. No other nominations were received therefore the proposition was put to the vote and carried.

ORDERED:

That Councillor Keith Chapman be elected Chairman of the County Council until the Annual General Meeting in 2017. Councillor Chapman made the declaration of Acceptance of Office.

COUNCILLOR KEITH CHAPMAN MBE IN THE CHAIR

237. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Nominations for Vice-Chairman of the Council were called for. Councillor Roy Perry, seconded by Councillor Keith Mans proposed that Councillor Graham Burgess be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council until the Annual General Meeting in 2017. No other nominations were received therefore the proposition was put to the vote and carried.

ORDERED:

That Councillor Graham Burgess be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the County Council until the Annual General Meeting in 2016. Councillor Burgess made the declaration of Acceptance of Office.

238. 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.

239. MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings of the County Council Meeting held on 18 February 2016 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising.

240. DEPUTATIONS

The Council received the following deputations:

- a) Catherine Ovenden regarding the future of Sure Start Children's Centres

- b) Rachel Coney and Stephen Gooch to raise awareness of the South Central Ambulance Service charity.

241. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Incoming Chairman put on record his thanks to the Outgoing Chairman, Jonathan Glen, for his dedicated work over the last twelve months to promote Hampshire County Council. The Chairman confirmed his theme for the year would be 'the Chairman's year of music' supported by the Hampshire Music Service. The Chairman highlighted the importance of young people having the opportunity to take part in and enjoy music. With the help of the Hampshire Music Service, the Chairman would be encouraging young people to get involved with the many events and music groups on offer across the county. A leaflet with more information would be sent to all schools.

The Chairman welcomed two new County Councillors to their first meeting, Councillor Floss Mitchell representing the Headley Division and Councillor Chris Matthews representing the Fareham Town Division.

It was with great sadness that the Chairman reported to the County Council the recent passing of former County Councillor Virginia Steel, who was elected to the County Council in 1997 and represented the Barncroft and Warren Park Division. The Leader, followed by Councillors Shaun Cully and Ray Bolton paid tribute to the former Councillor. The Council observed a minute's silence as a mark of respect.

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

242. **LEADER'S REPORT**

The Leader opened his report by expressing his appreciation to Councillor Jonathan Glen for the manner in which he had discharged his duties during his year as Chairman and extended his congratulations to the Incoming Chairman, Councillor Keith Chapman, to Councillors Floss Mitchell and Chris Matthews on their election to the County Council and to Graham Allen and Steve Crocker on their appointment to the respective roles of Director of Adults' Health and Care and Director of Children's Services. The Leader welcomed Councillor Rob Humby as the new Executive Member for Environment and Transport and extended his thanks to Councillor Seán Woodward for his work as the former Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment.

In regard to the Further Electoral Review of the County Council by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, the Leader reported that the Commission had published revised draft recommendations for the Havant and New Forest district areas only for a further period of consultation to close on 6 June 2016. A number of the representations made by the County Council had been reflected in the revised draft recommendations. Full details can be found on the Commission's website:

<http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/south-east/hampshire/hampshire-county-council> as emailed to all Members on 10 May 2016.

It would normally fall to the County Council to agree a response to the consultation, however in order to meet the tight submission deadline the Leader referred to Item 11 later on the agenda that sought delegated authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the political Group Leaders to finalise the County Council's response following a meeting of the Electoral Review Members' Working Group.

The Leader had pleasure in reporting on three important Awards: for the County Council's website which had been ranked top in an independent survey of all UK local authority websites; a regional award to the Hampshire County Architects for the design of the Winchester Cathedral new Learning Centre, and to Children's Services who have been asked to be national co-ordinator for assessing demand for secure accommodation for children in need of care and protection.

The Leader provided the Council with an update on the current position on proposals for Devolution, Combined Authorities and potential local government re-organisation. Negotiations on securing greater devolution to the whole of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight area (19 partners in total) had stalled following the Government's insistence on an elected Mayor. Subsequently, proposals were put forward by the Leaders of the three Unitary Councils (Southampton, Portsmouth and Isle of Wight) together with the Leaders of five Hampshire District Councils (Eastleigh, East Hampshire, Fareham, Gosport and Havant) for a Solent Combined Authority. A further Combined Authority bid had also been put forward by the Leaders of the remaining District Councils (Basingstoke and Deane, Hart, New Forest, Rushmoor, Test Valley and Winchester), known as the Heart of Hampshire. Both proposals are based on an elected Mayor, which would entail the expense of elections and a new layer of administration, and would devolve very few powers down from central government. Furthermore, the geography pays little regard to the Local Enterprise Partnership boundaries, to economic needs, the NHS geography, and the fact that a Fire and Rescue Service exists, together with a Police and Crime Commissioner for all of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

In light of these proposals which would split Hampshire, the Leader reported that the County Council had been left with no choice but to explore other options for the future of local government in Hampshire, including re-organisation. An independent study by Deloitte had recently been commissioned to provide an initial analysis of how services could be better provided across the whole county at lower cost. Their report, which explores a number of options in detail, indicated that the creation of a new unitary structure for local government in Hampshire could deliver lower council tax for the majority of Hampshire households, streamline services and deliver tens of millions of pounds of savings each year. Their estimates suggest this would be at least a third more than the £30 million, apparently offered by the Government to a Solent combined authority.

The concept of a new unitary 'Hampshire Council' had been identified as a way that provides residents with the greatest level of continuity in services, the highest savings and the lowest cost of implementation. It would also give more influence and power to local Town and Parish Councils, thereby strengthening local democracy. The proposal is not about protecting historical arrangements, or matters of individual sovereignty, but about securing a sustainable future for Hampshire residents with high quality and efficient services and a buoyant economy.

The Leader reported that residents should be given an opportunity to voice their views before any decision about the future of Hampshire is made. The County Council will therefore be going out to a full public consultation on this issue and will be liaising with Hampshire MPs and other key stakeholders, including all Town and Parish Councils to enter into debate. The next stage, in a proper democratic process, will be a special meeting of the Cabinet at which these proposals will be considered.

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

243. 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.

244. PROPORTIONALITY AND APPOINTMENTS

The Council considered a report from the Chief Executive and presented by the Leader (Item 10 and 10X in the Minute Book) reviewing the proportionality of the Council, appointing Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen to the Council's committees and standing advisory panels, appointing the full quota of County Councillors to the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority, and making other appointments as required.

RESOLVED:

That the County Council:

- (a) Approve the Proportionality Table attached as Appendix 4 to these Minutes.
- (b) Appoint the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Committees and Panels of the County Council, attached as Appendix 5 to these Minutes.
- (c) Approve all other appointments set out in Agenda Item 10 together with the Addendum, Item 10X.
- (d) Authorise the Monitoring Officer to make any changes to the Constitution as required.

245. FURTHER ELECTORAL REVIEW OF HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – RESPONSE TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND’S ADDITIONAL LIMITED CONSULTATION ON A NEW PATTERN OF DIVISIONS

The Council considered the report of the Chief Executive regarding the latest position with the Further Electoral Review of the County Council being conducted by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE). The LGBCE had notified the County Council that it would be conducting an additional phase of public consultation on the Havant and New Forest district areas only before finalising and publishing its Final Recommendations.

Members noted that to enable the County Council to meet the LGBCE’s submission deadline of 6 June 2016 it was proposed that the Chief Executive be authorised, in consultation with the Political Group Leaders, to finalise the County Council’s response to this additional consultation.

RESOLVED:

That the County Council authorises the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Political Group Leaders, to finalise the County Council’s response to the LGBCE’s additional period of limited consultation.

246. CONSIDERATION OF MOTION REFERRED FROM COUNTY COUNCIL: BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT

The Council considered the report of the Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee (HASC) regarding the Motion referred to it by the County Council on 18 February 2016. The Committee had considered the Motion in parallel with its pre-decision scrutiny of a report to the Executive Member for Health and Public Health on a breastfeeding model of delivery for the future which provided contextual information, the financial position and options for consideration. The resolution of the HASC was to support the recommendations proposed to the Executive Member for Health and Public Health, as set out in section 7 of the report to the Executive Member, which can be viewed via this link <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings> and entering item reference 7284 in the key word search. The HASC did not make any further recommendations to the County Council.

During the course of the debate, a number of Members expressed their disappointment with the outcome of the HASC’s deliberations and requested that the old model be continued until the evaluation of the new model (Option 3, section 5 of the Executive Member report) was completed. In response the Executive Member for Health and Public Health reported that the new breastfeeding model was progressing well and an additional 18 drop-in centres had been set up, which included five across the Basingstoke & Deane area. The Executive Member highlighted that the health visiting service of Southern Health is the only such service in the region accredited by UNICEF and operates to the UNICEF standard for

breastfeeding. Members' attention was also drawn to the training of Health Visitors who have to undertake an additional year's training to their nurse training in order to provide breastfeeding support and are therefore well qualified to undertake this task. Furthermore, Southern Health had introduced 40 Breastfeeding Champions. In regard to the monitoring of the service, the HASC had agreed to an update in six months time when the new model had had time to operate and embed.

247. NOTICES OF MOTION

Two Notices of Motion had been received in accordance with Standing Order 18.1 and were considered in the order in which they were received.

- a) Proposed by Councillor David Harrison and seconded by Councillor Chris Wood:

“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.”

During the course of debate a number of views were expressed. Members who have had experience of the operation of a committee system and a hybrid system of governance felt these models provided a structure that was inclusive to all Members. Contrasting views were expressed particularly in regard to the cost and use of resources associated with undertaking such a change, which had to be weighed against the need for business efficiency and continued focus in the current challenging environment. The timing of the proposal was also questioned in light of continuing discussions in regard to possible devolution for Hampshire and the announcement by the Leader of the Council earlier in the meeting to explore a number of options for local government in Hampshire, including a new unitary structure. It was noted that Members could, for example, attend meetings of the Cabinet to express their views about a range of matters.

The Motion was put to the vote. The majority of the Members present did not support the Motion and it was therefore lost.

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

“This Hampshire County Council notes:

- the very high quality schools in Hampshire with 84% of pupils attending “good” or “outstanding” schools;
- that the Local Government Association has pointed out that 82 per cent of maintained schools have been rated good or excellent by Ofsted, while three times as many councils perform above the

national average in terms of progress made by students than the largest academy chains;

- the excellent relationship between the council and schools, all focused on delivering the best education possible so that each of Hampshire's young people can attain their full potential;
- the invaluable role of parent governors and local authority governors, acting as "critical friends" to both support head teachers and hold them to account;
- the relatively small number of schools that have thus far chosen to become an academy in Hampshire; and
- the confidence placed in this Council by Department for Education (DFE) to improve Children's Services, including the education system on the Isle of Wight.

This council meeting notes with great concern the recently published education white paper "Educational Excellence Everywhere", including proposals which will:

- force all schools to become academies, irrespective of each school's wishes;
- transfer the land and buildings of such schools from being owned by local residents through their local authority to central ownership by the Secretary of State just as the local authority is making a significant investment in the school estate;
- remove the requirement for schools to elect parent governors;
- leave local authorities with the responsibility for various aspects of the education system, including provision of sufficient school places, whilst apparently "freeing schools from local authority control"; and
- allow head teachers more flexibility in relation to using unqualified teachers.

This council meeting further believes that forcing schools to become academies against their wishes is undesirable, and that the resulting education system will become ever more polarised and unsustainable, harming the life chances of a generation of young people.

This council meeting therefore resolves to ask the Leader to write on behalf of this whole council to the Secretary of State for Education, asking her to:

- *think again* about forcing schools to become academies, instead designing a system which allows academy and non-academy schools to co-exist in a sustainable way, to ensure school places and education quality can be delivered for all our young people;
- *think again* about allowing schools to remove parents from their governing bodies when we should be increasing their role and influence in school management;
- *think again* about all of the other measures which collectively put at risk the quality of teaching and education outcomes.

This council meeting further resolves to ask the Leader to write to our local MPs and local peers requesting their response to the white paper and, for those who support the white paper, asking them to demonstrate how the proposals will improve educational outcomes in Hampshire.”

In speaking to the Motion Councillor Porter recognised the recent concessions made by the Secretary of State for Education but expressed the view that further concessions could be made, therefore the Motion stood.

Councillor Criss Connor moved an Amendment to the Motion which was seconded by Councillor Jane Frankum, as follows:

Penultimate paragraph starting:

“This Council meeting therefore resolves to ask the Leader to write on behalf of this whole council to the Secretary of State for Education asking her to:”

first bullet point: leave out (~~strike through~~) and add words (***bold and italics***) as follows:

“think again about forcing schools to become academies, ~~instead designing~~ ***working with local authorities, even to permitting them to become Academy Trusts to design a*** system which allows academy and non-academy schools to co-exist in a sustainable way, to ensure school places and education quality can be delivered for all our young people, ***as well as protecting the future of smaller, rural and special needs schools;***”

Councillor Porter confirmed that she was prepared to accept the Amendment. During the course of debate Councillor Keith Mans, Executive Lead Member for Children’s Services and Councillor Peter Edgar, Executive Member for Education expressed their views and confirmed support for the Amendment.

The Motion was put to the vote which resulted in the unanimous agreement of the Council. The Motion was therefore carried as Amended, a copy of which is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 6.

248. **HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

No questions had been received pursuant to Standing Order 16.3. The report of the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority was received. Arising from the report, the Chairman of the Fire Authority responded to a question regarding the views of the new Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Hampshire on the future of Fire and Rescue Authorities in light of recent reporting that they could come under the control of PCCs. Councillor Carter

confirmed that the position of the new PCC was not known given that he had only just taken up his post but offered to keep the County Council updated.

249. CHANGES IN RESPONSIBILITY FOR EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS

The Council considered the report of the Chief Executive, as presented by the Leader, confirming recent changes in responsibility for Executive functions as set out in Annex 1 to the report. The Leader also confirmed that following Councillor Rob Humby's appointment to the Cabinet, Councillor Edward Heron would take on the role of Assistant to the Executive – Rural Affairs Champion with immediate effect. The report was noted.

250. CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS: APPOINTMENTS TO THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD FOR HAMPSHIRE

The Council considered the report of the Health and Wellbeing Board confirming recent changes to representation on the Board that had been taken under delegated authority by the Head of Law & Governance (Monitoring Officer) in consultation with the Chairman of the Board. The report was noted.

251. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

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

- a) Executive Lead Member for Children's Services:
 - * Short Breaks for Disabled Children – Grants for 2016/17
- b) Executive Member for Education:
 - * East Anton South Primary School, Andover
- c) Executive Member for Environment and Transport:
 - * Parish Lengthsman Scheme
 - * Hampshire's Waste Prevention Programme
- d) Executive Member for Health and Public Health:
 - * The Commissioning of Support Services for Substance Misusing Offenders as part of the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Programme
- e) Executive Member for Adult Social Care:
 - * Delivering Older Persons Extra-Care in Hampshire County Council
 - * Day activities for older people and for people with physical disabilities

- f) Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside:
 - * Library Service Transformation: Strategy to 2020

(The meeting closed at 3.40pm).

Appendix 1

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you for electing me as Chairman. I am very grateful for the continued support I receive. I would like to say a special thank you to my wife, Jennifer, who is here with me today. My wife and I will carry out our duties to the best of our abilities and are very much looking forward to the next 12 months. I am particularly excited about the plans in store for my theme this year, which I will return to later.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our out-going Chairman, Jonathan Glen and his wife, Sharon, for having a fantastic year promoting Hampshire County Council. Jonathan has achieved this task ably and has served this office with great distinction. I have been fortunate enough to have known Jonathan for a long time as a colleague and a friend, but it is only in this last year, serving as his Vice-Chairman, that I discovered his prowess as a 'Thespian'. This came to light when we held the Battle of Agincourt event in the Great Hall here in Winchester. I shall leave the acting to my more able colleague but will do my best to follow Jonathan's excellent example and would like to thank you again for everything you have achieved and for all your hard work over the past year.

I would also like to welcome our new councillors - Councillor Floss Mitchell (Headley Division) and Councillor Chris Matthews (Fareham Town Division).

It gives me great pleasure to announce that the theme for my year is Chairman's year of music, supported by the Hampshire Music Service. I have a great love of music and in particular, have seen through the experiences of my daughter, how music can have such a positive and inspirational impact on all people.

I think it is especially important for young people to have the opportunity to take part in and enjoy music, either as a player or as an audience member. With this in mind, and with the help of the Hampshire Music Service, I hope to use my theme of the Chairman's year of music, to actively encourage people to get involved with the many events and music groups on offer across the County. A leaflet with more information about how we aim to achieve this will be sent to all schools with the hope that students of all ages will be encouraged to participate and enjoy music, such that their lives will be enriched.

I will be looking to my fellow councillors to help spread the word of our music and youth campaign and hope that you will all support me in achieving this great goal. During my year, I will be hosting events throughout the County, for example, in Winchester, Basingstoke, Romsey and Beaulieu.

Congratulations to the new Vice-Chairman, Councillor Graham Burgess.

Lastly, but by no means least, it is with great sadness that I must inform you of the death of former County Councillor Virginia Steel whom passed away recently. Virginia served the ward of Bancroft & Warren Park (Havant) from 1997 to 2001.

I will now ask the Leader to say a few words, and then open it up to the Chamber, so that anyone who wishes to give a personal tribute may do so.

Thank you Members for all your kind words. Please now be upstanding whilst we take a few minutes to think about and remember our former County Councillor.

Finally, I wish to say that my door is always open to anyone wishing to talk to me and look forward to working with you all over the next year.

END.

[CHECK ON DELIVERY]

Appendix 2**LEADER'S REPORT**

To begin with I wish to record my appreciation for the excellent manner in which Cllr Glen discharged his responsibilities as Chairman of the County Council during the past year. From the skirl of the bagpipes that welcomed him to Winchester Cathedral for the County Service- as well as the inclusion of the Battle Hymn of the Republic in that service as a mark of Sharon Glen's American citizenship it was clear we had a couple who would not only serve the County well but would bring their distinctive qualities to the role. Jonathan and Sharon - thank you

I also welcome Councillor Keith Chapman as our incoming Chairman. The County Music Service will have no greater champion. I will be happy to join him at the many music events I know he is planning. I just make one personal plea - not too much Shostakovich.

I also welcome to their first Council meeting this morning two new Members to the County Council following their success in the by-elections held on 5 May - namely Councillor Floss Mitchell for the Headley Division and Councillor Chris Matthews for the Fareham Town Division. Welcome.

Those results spare us having to make any adjustments to the proportionality table, which remains unchanged.

Two new Directors have been appointed since our last meeting namely Mr Graham Allen now Director of Adults, Health and Care and Steve Crocker now Director of Children's Services. All Directors have tough roles but we all know those two positions are critical for the services this County offers the people of Hampshire. I congratulate them on their respective appointments and wish them well.

I would also like to welcome Councillor Rob Humby as the new Executive Member for Environment and Transport and to express my thanks to Councillor Woodward for the accomplished way he served in that role plus Economic Development, and would say I fully understand his reasons for standing down because of any potential conflict in his role as a County Executive Member serving all Hampshire and a bid by five Districts in just part of the County to become a Combined Authority. Seán – thank you.

On 10 May 2016 the Local Government Boundary Commission for England published revised draft recommendations for the Havant and New Forest district areas in light of, what they feel are, persuasive representations received to the consultation on their original proposals for a new pattern of divisions for the County Council.

The Commission is now consulting on changes in three of the Havant Divisions and seven of the New Forest Divisions. I am pleased to say that it appears a number [albeit not all] of the representations made by the County Council have

been reflected in the revised recommendations. The consultation will close on 6 June 2016. Full details of the changes are available on the Commission's website, a link to which was emailed to all Members of the Council on 10 May.

The Electoral Review Members' Working Group will meet next week to consider these changes and prepare a draft response to the Commission's revised recommendations for consideration by the Electoral Review Leader's Working Group later in the month.

You will see that later in the Agenda at Item 11, there is a report seeking delegated authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the political Group Leaders to finalise the County Council's response in order to meet the Commission's submission deadline.

I can report on three important Awards won by the Council:

- i) The County website has been ranked top in an independent survey of all UK LA websites for its readability, with 60million page views it is the most visited county website in the UK
- ii) Hampshire County Architects who designed the Winchester Cathedral new Learning Centre have won a Regional Award from the RIBA and now go forward into a national competition
- iii) HCC Children's Services have been asked by DfE and the Assoc of Directors of CS to be national co-ordinator for assessing national demand for secure accommodation for children in need of care and protection. The DfE will pay us to do that!

Mr Chairman I wish to take this opportunity to report to Council the present state of play on proposals for Devolution and Combined Authorities and potential local government re-organisation as it affects the County.

I am sorry this makes my report lengthier than usual but these are crucial matters for the future of Hampshire which have implications for all residents and I want to bring all members up to date on events following my memo to members on 1st April.

Devolution remains a fast moving scene and since our meeting in February and the subsequent briefings arranged for all members much has happened and perhaps just as significantly much has not happened. Notably in that respect, there was no announcement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his Budget Speech on 16th March 2016 of a Combined Authority just for the Solent Area. Some had anticipated there would be but I know from personal discussions with the Secretary of State he is still looking for a settlement with the whole of Hampshire rather than just part of the county.

As Members know a proposal was put forward by the Leaders of the three Unitary authorities plus Leaders of five Hampshire Districts namely: Eastleigh, East Hampshire, Fareham, Gosport and Havant for a Solent Combined Authority.

Whilst the County Council was subsequently asked to give its support I have said I have no mandate from this Council or indeed from the residents of Hampshire to back a bid that would lead to an elected Mayor and divide the County and potentially lead to a unitary council for part of the county.

I can report that subsequent to the Solent bid, the District Leaders in the rest of the County have made their own bid for a Combined Authority, also encompassing a directly Elected Mayor i.e. Basingstoke and Deane, Hart, Rushmoor, New Forest, Test Valley and Winchester. Originally this was named North Hampshire and New Forest but now is known as Heart of Hampshire.

I was invited to participate in their discussions and I can understand their desire not to be ignored or left out, not least because there is an apparent offer on the table of Government funding of some £30m p.a. for 30 years to the Solent area. I am personally rather suspicious of the validity of any 30 year offer. As far as I am aware no financial offer has been made to the Heart of Hampshire.

Really for the reasons I declined to sign the county up to the Solent bid I have declined to endorse the Heart of Hampshire bid.

I have no mandate from this Council, there has been no consultation with the residents and when I have spoken to residents at annual Parish meetings and the like not just in my own division, I have detected no support either for an elected Mayor, for a Solent City, nor for a division of this county into two parts.

I wish to make it crystal clear that in my opinion as the Leader of Hampshire County Council, that before there are any changes in local government structure across Hampshire, whether it be for combined authorities, an elected Mayor or a unitary council, there must be a full and genuine public consultation. If we consult on HWRCs we must consult on a matter as momentous as this.

I say to the District Council Leaders before they give in to Government pressures and set this ball rolling of elected Mayors and a division of Hampshire it is the people of Hampshire who should have their say. To sign up and then consult is the wrong way round.

Both current proposals for Combined Authority are based on an elected Mayor with all the expense of elections and a new layer of administration that would entail. The talk is of a constrained Mayor- whatever that means but constraining a mayor once elected is another matter. Furthermore these proposals set a path towards the creation of two separate unitary councils. The proposed geography pays little if any regard to the LEP boundaries, to economic needs, the NHS geography, and the fact that a whole Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service exists, together with a Police and Crime Commissioner for all of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

In the face of these moves to split Hampshire, the County Council has commissioned an independent study by experienced consultants Deloitte, to provide an initial analysis of how if there has to be change better services could be provided across the whole county, at lower cost.

As far as I know there has been no comparable independent and objective study to support the two Combined Authority bids.

This report, which explores a number of options in detail, has indicated the creation of a new unitary structure for local government in Hampshire could cut council tax for over 90% of Hampshire households, streamline services and deliver over £40millions of savings each year. They tell us this is a prudent estimate. It would be at least a third more than the £30 million p.a. apparently offered by the Government to the Solent Combined authority.

One of the options put forward by the Consultants is the creation of a new unitary 'Hampshire Council' rather like our neighbours in Wiltshire. This would replace both the County Council and Hampshire's 11 district councils – it would deliver lower council tax, more efficient services and some would say a clearer democratic accountability to Hampshire residents.

As a single local authority it would carry out the full range of local government services for its area, encompassing all the duties and functions that are carried out in 'two-tier' areas with both district and county councils. For example, as a unitary council it would combine the collection and disposal of household waste, whereas as we well know in a two-tier area these functions are split between the district council (waste collection) and the county council (waste disposal).

I have been a supporter of the two-tier structure which has much to commend it but the Districts and Cities have now come up with their separate proposals that will begin to divide the county immediately and would lead ultimately to two unitary councils based on a perverse geography which will do little to enhance the economy of the area. Interestingly, the independent analysis shows that two such unitaries (Solent and Heart) would be the most disruptive and least efficient model out of all of the options open to Hampshire. It is simply indefensible that we should be taken down that path with so little information and no attempt to assess public opinion.

We move towards this latest suggestion for a 'Hampshire Council' following the failed negotiations on securing greater devolution to the whole of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight area. Up to the point when the Government insisted on an elected Mayor we had agreement between 19 partners for a Hampshire and IOW Combined Authority but that fell apart following the Minister of State's insistence on an elected Mayor. I see little hope of returning to that model.

Our priority has been, and should always be, serving the best interests of all Hampshire residents. We have thought long and hard about the devolution negotiations with Government.

Unfortunately, the present proposals devolve very few powers down from central government but would transfer, and therefore split, some of the county's key services such as highways and transport. They don't bring greater clarity or efficiencies. They add a new layer of local government and additional costs and would inevitably disrupt high quality countywide services. The County Council has

painstakingly built over many years, a range of services, especially in the protection of vulnerable adults and children that are the envy of the country. I cannot accept that these should be broken up in this way, for these reasons. I would far rather lose the County Council as we know it, and establish a new 'Hampshire Council' than threaten those services.

The County Council is left with no choice but to explore other options for the future of local government in Hampshire, including reorganisation. The concept of a new unitary 'Hampshire Council' has been identified as a way that provides residents with the greatest level of continuity in services, the highest savings and the lowest cost of implementation. The anticipated savings actually outweigh what would have been gained from the Government in a devolution deal. We need to study existing examples such as our neighbours in Wiltshire, where there has been a unitary county for several years now. By following the example of Wiltshire and others, it would also give much more influence and power to local town and parish councils, thereby strengthening local democracy. This is not about protecting historical arrangements, or matters of individual sovereignty, but about securing a sustainable future for Hampshire residents with good and economic services and a buoyant economy. However, let me emphasise such a fundamental decision about the future of Hampshire can only happen if residents want it, and are given a proper opportunity to voice their views. This is why the County Council will shortly be going out to a full and careful public consultation on this issue.

"We will also be liaising with our MPs and other key stakeholders – and all our Town and Parish Councils to enter a debate about how we can create a shift in the direction of real localism. If Southampton and Portsmouth want to proceed with their Solent City idea, then that is up to them. I believe the Isle of Wight may wish to re-assess its position about joining them. The financial evidence we have indicates a County Unitary would save well over £40million per annum – every year, not just the 30 years promised in the Solent deal so it should be good news for the Chancellor of the Exchequer as well as local taxpayers.

In conclusion, I am not endorsing the current Solent or Heart of Hampshire proposals unless and until the people of Hampshire tell me that is what they want. We need to set before the public real alternatives which have a strong evidence base. I think people want: more efficient and economic local government with fewer layers and consistently high quality services – at scale and locally. The next stage, in a proper democratic process, will be briefings for all Councillors on the Deloitte Report a special meeting of the Cabinet at which these proposals will be considered and when we determine an objective consultation process.

I will invite the district Leaders before they formally sign up to their bids and promote Elected Mayors to join us in asking the people of Hampshire what they want.

END.

[CHECK ON DELIVERY]

Appendix 3

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER

1. From Councillor Chris Wood to the Executive Member for Environment and Transport:

“Would the Executive Member for Environment and Transport please provide an update on the progress of the funding bid for the Stubbington Bypass?”

2. From Councillor Roger Huxstep to the Executive Lead Member for Children’s Services:

“Will the Executive Lead Member for Children’s Services indicate what progress there has been during the first year of the second phase of the Council’s Troubled Families programme?”

3. From Councillor Ken Thornber to the Executive Member for Education:

“Has the Executive Member, or his Officers, been able to establish the validity of the evidence that Government is using to support its claim that academisation of all schools will improve the standard of education throughout the Country – is this academically sound, or is the Government’s policy a leap in the dark?”

4. From Councillor Criss Connor to the Executive Lead Member for Children’s Services:

“In light of the comment made by the Chief Inspector of Schools, Sir Michael Wilshaw, on Tuesday 2nd May that good education depended on a sound, early base and the fact that the Children’s Centres provide a head start in achieving this, would the Leader urge the Cabinet to suspend the severe cuts to be imposed on the centres for at least one year and establish a cross-party Task & Finish group to look at ways of ensuring the continued existence of these centres which provide such an essential early introduction into the world of learning.”

Appendix 4

PROPORTIONALITY (AGM 22 MAY 2015) - APPROVED							
		Con	LD	UKIP	Lab	Ind	Unaffiliated
Members:	78.00	46.00	16.00	9.00	4.00	2.00	1.00
A: Council Committees and Panels							
Select Committees	seats						
Children and Young People	20.00	11.00	4.00	2.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Culture and Communities	14.00	8.00	3.00	2.00	1.00		
Economy, Transport & Environment	14.00	8.00	3.00	2.00	1.00		
Health and Adult Social Care	20.00	11.00	4.00	2.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Policy and Resources	14.00	8.00	3.00	2.00	1.00		
Other Committees/Panels							
Audit Committee	9.00	6.00	1.00	1.00			1.00
Employment in Hampshire County	8.00	5.00	2.00	1.00			
Hampshire Pension Fund Panel & Board	9.00	6.00	1.00	1.00	1.00		
Regulatory Committee	16.00	9.00	4.00	2.00	1.00		
Advisory Committees/Panels							
Buildings Land & Procurement Panel	6.00	4.00	1.00	1.00			
Children and Families Advisory Panel	9.00	5.00	2.00	1.00		1.00	
Conduct Advisory Panel	10.00	6.00	2.00	1.00	1.00		
Education Advisory Panel	9.00	5.00	2.00	1.00		1.00	
SACRE	4.00	3.00	1.00				
River Hamble							
River Hamble Harbour Board	3.00	2.00	1.00				
River Hamble Harbour Management Comm	10.00	6.00	2.00	1.00	1.00		
Total	175.00	103.00	36.00	20.00	9.00	4.00	3.00
		103.21	35.90	20.19	8.97	4.49	2.24
Rounded mathematical entitlement		103.00	36.00	20.00	9.00	4.00	2.00
Surplus/deficit		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00
B: Other Proportionate Bodies							
Chichester Harbour Board	4.00	3.00	1.00				
Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority	19.00	11.00	4.00	2.00	1.00	1.00	
New Forest National Park Authority	5.00	3.00	1.00	1.00			
Total	28.00	17.00	6.00	3.00	1.00		
C: Overall total seats							
	203.00	120.00	42.00	23.00	10.00	5.00	3.00
Mathematical entitlement		119.72	41.64	23.42	10.41	5.21	2.60
Overall rounded mathematical entitlement		120.00	42.00	23.00	10.00	5.00	3.00
Surplus/deficit		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Appendix 5

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND VICE CHAIRMAN 2016/17

Committee	Chairman	Vice-Chairman
Audit Committee	Councillor Keith Evans	Councillor Vaughan Clarke
Buildings, Land and Procurement Panel	Councillor Mel Kendal	Councillor Peter Edgar
Children and Families Advisory Panel	Councillor David Keast	Councillor Roz Chadd
Children and Young People Select Committee	Councillor Ray Bolton	Councillor Roz Chadd
Conduct Advisory Panel	Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee	Councillor Keith Evans
Culture and Communities Select Committee	Councillor Anna McNair Scott	Councillor Frank Pearce
Economy, Transport and Environment Select Committee	Councillor Sharyn Wheale	Councillor Geoff Hockley
Education Advisory Panel	Councillor Peter Edgar	Councillor Rita Burgess
Employment in Hampshire County Council Committee	Councillor Stephen Reid	Councillor Keith Evans
Hampshire Health & Wellbeing Board	Councillor Liz Fairhurst	NB – appointed by the Health & Wellbeing Board
Hampshire Pension Fund Panel & Board	Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee	Councillor Tom Thacker
Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee	Councillor Roger Huxstep	Councillor Chris Carter
Policy and Resources Select Committee	Councillor Elaine Still	Councillor Keith Evans
Regulatory Committee	Councillor Robin McIntosh	Councillor Peter Latham
River Hamble Harbour Board	Councillor Keith Evans	Councillor Peter Latham
River Hamble Harbour Management Committee	Councillor Seán D. T. Woodward	Councillor Graham Burgess
Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education	Councillor Roz Chadd	Councillor Charles Choudhary

Appendix 6

Item 13b) – Motion as Amended

This Hampshire County Council notes:

- the very high quality schools in Hampshire with 84% of pupils attending “good” or “outstanding” schools;
- that the Local Government Association has pointed out that 82 per cent of maintained schools have been rated good or excellent by Ofsted, while three times as many councils perform above the national average in terms of progress made by students than the largest academy chains;
- the excellent relationship between the council and schools, all focused on delivering the best education possible so that each of Hampshire’s young people can attain their full potential;
- the invaluable role of parent governors and local authority governors, acting as “critical friends” to both support head teachers and hold them to account;
- the relatively small number of schools that have thus far chosen to become an academy in Hampshire; and
- the confidence placed in this Council by Department for Education (DFE) to improve Children’s Services, including the education system on the Isle of Wight.

This council meeting notes with great concern the recently published education white paper “Educational Excellence Everywhere”, including proposals which will:

- force all schools to become academies, irrespective of each school’s wishes;
- transfer the land and buildings of such schools from being owned by local residents through their local authority to central ownership by the Secretary of State just as the local authority is making a significant investment in the school estate;
- remove the requirement for schools to elect parent governors;
- leave local authorities with the responsibility for various aspects of the education system, including provision of sufficient school places, whilst apparently “freeing schools from local authority control”; and
- allow head teachers more flexibility in relation to using unqualified teachers.

This council meeting further believes that forcing schools to become academies against their wishes is undesirable, and that the resulting education system will become ever more polarised and unsustainable, harming the life chances of a generation of young people.

This council meeting therefore resolves to ask the Leader to write on behalf of this whole council to the Secretary of State for Education, asking her to:

- *think again* about forcing schools to become academies, working with local authorities, even permitting them to become Academy Trusts to design a system which allows academy and non-academy schools to co-exist in a sustainable way, to ensure school places and education quality can be delivered for all our young people, as well as protecting the future of smaller, rural and special needs schools;
- *think again* about allowing schools to remove parents from their governing bodies when we should be increasing their role and influence in school management;
- *think again* about all of the other measures which collectively put at risk the quality of teaching and education outcomes.

This council meeting further resolves to ask the Leader to write to our local MPs and local peers requesting their response to the white paper and, for those who support the white paper, asking them to demonstrate how the proposals will improve educational outcomes in Hampshire.