

AT A MEETING of the ECONOMY, TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT
SELECT COMMITTEE of the COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle,
Winchester on Thursday, 3 November 2016.

PRESENT

Chairman:

p Councillor Sharyn Wheale

Vice-Chairman:

p Councillor Geoff Hockley

Councillors:

p Graham Burgess

p Charles Choudhary

p Brian Gurden

p Edward Heron

p Roger Huxstep

p Rupert Kyrle

p Peter Latham

a Martin Lyon

p Steve Rippon-Swaine

p Frank Rust

p David Simpson

p Mark Staplehurst

Also in attendance: Cllr Rob Humby, Executive Member for Environment &
Transport, Cllr Criss Connor

158. **BROADCASTING ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Chairman announced that the press and members of the public were permitted to film and broadcast the 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.

159. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

It was noted that Cllr Martin Lyon had given his apologies. The UKIP substitute Member Cllr Tim Rolt attended in his place.

160. **DECLARATION 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 at the time of the relevant debate and, having regard to the circumstances described in 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 whether such interest should be declared,

and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 4 of the Code, considered whether it was appropriate to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

161. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meetings held on 30 June 2016 and 19 July 2016 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

162. **DEPUTATIONS**

No deputations were received at this meeting.

163. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Road Safety Task & Finish Group

The Chairman confirmed that since the last meeting a number of members had volunteered to take part in this task and finish group. The membership was due to be: Cllr Wheale, Cllr Huxstep, Cllr Heron, Cllr Gurden, Cllr Kyrle, and Cllr Lyon. She confirmed that the remaining conservative position on this group would be filled by Cllr Graham Burgess.

164. **UPDATE: FLY TIPPING STRATEGY**

The Committee considered a report and supporting presentation from the Director of Economy, Transport & Environment regarding the development of a Fly-tipping Strategy for Hampshire (see Item 6 in the Minute Book).

Members heard that:

- The feedback to the consultation about changes to Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) undertaken in summer 2016 had highlighted concerns from the public regarding fly tipping. When the HWRC proposals were scrutinised, the Select Committee requested to hear more about plans to develop a strategy to tackle fly tipping in Hampshire
- There were four areas covered by the draft Strategy: Raising Awareness; Data Recording; Clarity of responsibility; Enforcement
- Key aims of the strategy related to: Communications; Reporting; Collection & Disposal; and Investigation & Enforcement
- A workshop had been held with partner organisations to discuss the draft strategy, which had been positive. As a result there would be three working groups to develop action plans and identify who would undertake the actions

- The final strategy and action plan are due to go to the Executive Member for Environment & Transport for approval in March 2017
- It was also planned to recruit a member of staff to work with Trading Standards on fly tipping

Following questions Members heard:

- Officers were sharing intelligence with neighbouring authorities, and would be meeting with relevant representatives in January to discuss this and other waste matters
 - Penalties for fly tipping can be fines of up to £50,000 for businesses or jail in serious cases, and fines of up to £5,000 for members of the public. There have been examples of successful prosecution in Hampshire
 - The police were engaged in work on fly tipping, as were representatives from the district and borough authorities, as collection authorities have a role to collect fly tipped waste

Members commented:

- Members welcomed development of the strategy
- Members supported communications to inform the public and businesses of their duty of care to take responsibility for where their waste ends up
 - Members stressed the importance of involving bordering local authorities in this work
 - Members suggested the County Council write to the Bench Chairman (of Hampshire Magistrates) regarding supporting enforcement through high penalties for fly-tipping offences.

Following the debate, the following recommendations were proposed by the Chairman and agreed:

RECOMMENDED:

That the Economy, Transport and Environment Select Committee:

1. Support the development of a Fly-Tipping Strategy for Hampshire.
2. Request an update on the Strategy at the Select Committee meeting in January 2017, prior to sign off by the Executive Member in March 2017.

Recommendations passed to Executive Member

Work programme be updated

165. **CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL SCHEME**

The Committee considered a report from the Director of Economy, Transport & Environment regarding the Hampshire Concessionary Travel Scheme (see Item 7 in the Minute Book). This topic had been referred to this

Select Committee by the Policy & Resources Select Committee, having been raised there by Cllr Criss Connor. Cllr Connor attended the meeting and the Chairman invited him to speak.

Cllr Connor commented that in the Basingstoke area, previously concessionary travel tokens could be used for shop mobility, but this was no longer the case. He wished to see this reinstated. Officers reported that the scheme had been made equitable across the county, and not all the enhancements previously offered by district councils had been possible to offer county wide with the funding available. The national scheme is focused on bus travel, and the tokens were offered for use with alternative equivalent modes of transport such as community transport.

Members heard that:

- The concessionary travel scheme became the responsibility of upper tier local authorities to administer in 2011, having previously been operated by district councils. Funding for the scheme was reduced by 15% at that time, as it was assumed efficiencies could be made through operating the scheme on a wider scale
 - The number of passes issued had increased over time. In 2011 194,000 passes were issued, in 2016 256,000 passes had been issued.
 - Passes are available for disabled people of any age as well as for older people (in line with national retirement age). It was planned to promote the disabled passes as there was less awareness of these
 - Passes are currently automatically renewed (following a check that the individual has not passed away or moved out of the area). However, it was proposed to no longer automatically renew if a pass had not been used in the past six months. This was anticipated to generate administrative savings. If individuals did need to renew, there would be easy options to do so including online and through phoning hantsdirect.
 - Information was shared with other authorities so it would be possible to check if a pass had been used in another part of the country but not in Hampshire.

RESOLVED:

1. The Select Committee note the report.
2. It was requested that the Select Committee receive an update in Autumn 2017 regarding the impact of the change in policy to not auto renew passes that hadn't been used for 6 months. This should include data on the number of passes not automatically renewed, and the

Request passed to Executive Member/ETE Dept and logged on work programme

number of those that are subsequently requested to be renewed in the following six months.

166. **THE FUTURE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN HAMPSHIRE: AN UPDATE ON RECENT ENGAGEMENT WITH THE PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS AND LOCAL BUSINESSES**

The Committee received a presentation from the Director of Economy, Transport & Environment regarding the future of local government in Hampshire (see Item 8 in the Minute Book).

Members heard that:

- In September 2015 a devolution proposal had been made to central government covering the Hampshire and Isle of Wight area. This proposal stalled over the requirement for an elected mayor for the proposed area.
- In March 2016 an alternative proposal emerged for a combined authority for the Solent area. This proposal currently involves Southampton City Council, Portsmouth City Council and the Isle of Wight Council, as the district councils in that area cannot take part without the consent of the upper tier authority, and the position of the County Council has been not to provide that consent
 - The County Council was concerned about the potential of the Solent Combined Authority proposal to require splitting of services currently provided across the whole Hampshire County Council area
 - The County Council had hosted workshops in September 2016 to explore with parish and town councils what locality working could look like in any future local government arrangement
 - Feedback received at these workshops was that there couldn't be a 'one size fits all' approach, as there was variation in parish and town councils capacity. However, there was interest in taking on more responsibility in some areas, particularly those services relating to 'sense of place'
 - There were a range of potential roles for parish and town councils ranging from monitoring delivery of services through service enhancements to full devolved service delivery
 - Engagement had also been undertaken with the business community, which had been welcomed
 - Feedback from businesses indicated an interest in councils showing a 'can do' attitude, and interest in the future arrangements for business rates being used to fund infrastructure
 - There was no clear consensus from businesses regarding a preferred model of local government organisation

- Dialogue would be continuing with businesses and via Hampshire Association of Local Councils, and a report on engagement with both sectors was due to be presented to Cabinet in December 2016

Members commented:

- That there was a balance to be struck in devolving service delivery locally, between the benefits of local decision making and the risks of a 'postcode lottery'
- Local councils would be concerned that responsibility would be devolved without adequate funding. It was responded that the County Council was being open about the financial picture, and in other areas parish precepts had increased in order to support increased locality working

RESOLVED:

The Select Committee note the update.

167. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chairman presented the Committee's forthcoming work programme (see Item 9 in the Minute Book).

RESOLVED:

That the Committee's work programme be approved subject to any amendments made at this meeting.

Chairman, 19 January 2017