

AT A MEETING of the CABINET of HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held at the Castle on 30 April 2012.

Chairman:
p Councillor T. K. Thornber, CBE

Councillors:

p K. Chapman	p M.J. Kendal
p C. Davidovitz	a K. Mans
p Dr. R. J. Ellis	p R. Perry
p Felicity Hindson, MBE	p S. Reid

Also present with the agreement of the Chairman: Councillors B. Dash, P. Edgar, K. Evans, K. House, C. Leversha, M. Tucker and P. West.

336. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Keith Mans.

337. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were mindful that where they believed they had a personal or prejudicial interest in any matter considered at the meeting declared that interest at the time of the relevant debate and, having regard to the circumstances described in paragraphs 9, 10, 11 and 12 of the County Council's Code of Conduct, considered whether to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with paragraph 12 of the code.

338. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 March 2012 were confirmed as a correct record, subject to an amendment to confirm that Cllr Felicity Hindson was present for the entirety of the meeting, and not part thereof as recorded.

339. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting, several deputations, detailed in minute 340, below.

340. REVIEW OF SCHOOL PLACES AT WEST END INFANT AND BEAUMONT JUNIOR SCHOOLS, ALDERSHOT

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Children's Services (Item 5 in the Minute Book) seeking authority to close West End Infant and Beaumont Junior Schools and establish a split site two-form entry primary school for 420 pupils aged 4-11 with effect from 1 January 2013.

At the invitation of the Chairman, five deputations were heard by the Cabinet. Of those, the following four opposed the proposals;

- Kaye Clifford, Parent of a child at West End Infant School
 - Kirsty Friend, Parent of a child at West End Infant School
 - Chris Williams, Parent Governor of West End Infant School
 - Jennifer Evans and David Strong, Cargate Area Residents Association
- and one supported the proposals;
- Neil Bridger, Local Authority Governor of Beaumont Junior School

The Chairman thanked the deputations for their comments, which included, in respect of West End Infant school; the school provided a caring and nurturing environment for children and children felt safe and happy there; staff were open and welcoming; the local community supported the school and did not want to see it close. In respect of Beaumont Junior school, comments expressed that the management of a primary school would be improved and provide better transition for children and staff development.

The Cabinet heard that Beaumont Junior school had failed in the past to provide an adequate standard of education, although it was beginning to make improvements. West End Infant school was judged by Ofsted as satisfactory with some good features, however Ofsted also judged that there was inadequate capacity for improvement and the content provided to children was not challenging enough. The Cabinet believed that a significant benefit of a community primary school was a single united leadership team, which would be better enabled to improve overall education for the full age range of 4 to 11 years. Other benefits included consistency of policies, procedures and teaching.

In conclusion, whilst the Cabinet was supportive of the caring and inclusive ethos of the schools, it felt that the proposals need not impact negatively on the existing ethos and that the creation of a community primary school with a single leadership team would be better placed to significantly improve the educational attainment of the children to enable them to achieve their fullest potential.

The Cabinet adopted the recommendations set out in the report, subject to an amendment to seek the views of the new leadership of the school on the short term accommodation arrangements and the longer term proposals to form a single site school should capital funding be available. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 1.

341. JOINT WORKING IN HAMPSHIRE – STRATEGIC INTEGRATED BUSINESS CASE AND INDIVIDUAL BLUEPRINT PROPOSALS

Councillor Stephen Reid declared a person interest in this matter as an employee of an IT company. Councillor Mel Kendal declared a personal interest in this matter as a member of Hampshire Police Authority. Councillors Keith Chapman and Marilyn Tucker declared a personal interest as members of Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority.

The Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Executive (Item 6 in the Minute Book) seeking approval of the integrated strategic business case

and individual blueprints for the development of shared support services across Hampshire Constabulary, Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service and Hampshire County Council. The County Treasurer explained that the proposals were as challenging and achievement focussed as possible and would sit alongside the comprehensive services review and in particular the integrated business centre work being undertaken to streamline and centralise the County Council's transactions.

During the Cabinet's discussion of the proposals, it was noted that the existing Governance would remain and each of the three organisations would retain its strategic responsibilities for its own operations and services. The Cabinet welcomed the proposals for joined up public sector working across a range of services, which would reduce duplication and achieve efficiency savings. The Cabinet was fully supportive and expressed appreciation of the amount of work undertaken in getting to that point and thanked those involved.

The Cabinet adopted the recommendations set out in the report. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 2.

342. POLICE AND CRIME PANEL – PANEL ARRANGEMENTS

Councillor Mel Kendal declared a personal interest in this matter as a member of Hampshire Police Authority.

The Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Executive (Item 7 in the Minute Book) proposing terms on which the Police and Crime Panel should be established for recommendation to County Council. During the discussion, the Cabinet heard that all 15 Hampshire Local Authorities would need to agree the Panel arrangements. Should agreement not be reached, the Secretary of State could intervene to establish the Panel. The term of office for members was four years and Local Authorities would have flexibility to amend their membership during that term.

The Cabinet adopted the recommendations set out in the report. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 3.

343. LOCALISM ACT 2011 – REVISED STANDARDS ARRANGEMENTS - UPDATE

The Cabinet considered and approved a report of the Chief Executive (Item 8 in the Minute Book) on the revised requirements on the County Council in respect of changes to Standards Arrangements introduced by the Localism Act 2011.

The Cabinet adopted the recommendations set out in the report. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 4.