

AT A MEETING of the CABINET of HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held at the Castle on 26 September, 2011

Chairman:
p Councillor T. K. Thornber, CBE

Councillors:

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

Also present: Councillors P. Edgar, K. Evans, K. House, C. Leversha and M. Tucker.

249 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

250 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.

251 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 July, 2011 were confirmed as a correct record.

Matters arising thereon: -

Minute 244(a) – Partnership for Urban South Hampshire governance arrangements (PUSH) - it was noted that since the meeting the Isle of Wight Council had decided not to join the PUSH.

252 CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting the members of the public including Spencer Flower, the Leader of East Dorset Council, who had come along to listen to the proceedings about the Minerals and Waste Plan. He also welcomed to the meeting Julia Abbott and Richard Kinch, Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) Members who were watching proceedings as part of their investigations.

253 DEPUTATIONS

The Cabinet received deputations in relation to Minute No. 254

concerning the Minerals and Waste Plan and specifically the Hamble Airfield site:-
Leighton King – Ancasta Group.
Stuart Moulton – Hamble resident.

254 **DRAFT HAMPSHIRE MINERALS AND WASTE PLAN**

The following Members declared the following interests in the following interests in this item:

Councillor M. Kendal as a New Forest District Council Member.
Councillor R. Perry as Chairman of the Viridor Land Fill Tax Credits Panel for Squabb Wood
Councillor K. Chapman as a Member of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.
Councillor C. Davidovitz as a Parish Councillor.
Councillor K. House as Bursledon Parish Council and Eastleigh Borough Council Member.
Councillor T.K. Thornber as he had visited the Purple Haze site.
Councillor M. Tucker as a Member of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment (Item 5 in the Minute Book) on the draft Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan which outlined the key elements of the plan and considered how it would protect Hampshire's environment and communities, support Hampshire's economy and guide the delivery of sustainable minerals and waste development to 2030.

At the meeting, the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment advised the Cabinet on the duty for the County Council as a planning authority to prepare a plan for minerals and waste development and explained why the plan should be prepared at this time. Information was also provided on the rationale for the plan preparation which had previously been agreed by Council on 25 November, 2010 and on the progress since then, including a commentary on the public consultation undertaken by the County Council.

The Director of Economy, Transport and Environment also provided clarification that the draft Plan would entirely replace the adopted minerals and waste core strategy and significantly strengthen the policy framework by which future minerals and waste development would be judged.

The Cabinet were advised that the next stage of the plan preparation process would be to publish the plan and supporting evidence for comments on whether it is considered 'sound' under Regulation 27 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008.

Any comments received would be collated and compiled with the plan and evidence submitted to the Secretary of State in readiness for their public examination in 2012.

Following the receipt of the inspectors report the County Council would then be able to decide whether to adopt the Plan. In considering the report the Cabinet were advised that the Plan applied the waste hierarchy locally and identified the spatial policies and criteria for sites. Reference was made to the table on Page 9 of the report which indicated that Hampshire's foresight in investigating infrastructure meant that modest additional capacity was required; in particular 0.6 MTPA of recycling and recovery infrastructure with a residual requirement of 1.1 MT of landfill.

At the meeting the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment also provided a summary of the discussion from the Member briefing day held on 22 September 2011.

At the meeting Councillor K. House was given the opportunity to outline his observations. He considered that due to the reduction in planned house building over the plan period, particularly in the Eastleigh area that the extraction requirements were overstated. He commented on the proposed length of the public consultation and also spoke about the social and community impacts of sites such as Hamble Airfield, and expressed the view that these had not been given sufficient weight in the appraisals required as part of the preparation of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan.

On the latter points, the Cabinet were advised that the regulations prescribed a six week consultation at the next stage of the plan, and that community factors had been built into the appraisal.

The Cabinet discussed the report and draft Plan in great detail and made specific reference to the detailed equality impact assessment which had been issued to the Cabinet, and formed part of the evidence base, and considered the points made by the deputies. In considering the plan, the Cabinet were reminded that by taking advantage of changes to national planning policy and the new approach to setting planning targets locally, the County Council and its partners aimed to ensure that a sustainable and realistic plan for Hampshire was developed. The new approach would include greater emphasis on addressing climate change and protecting biodiversity, as well as focusing more on sustainable development.

There was discussion about the table on Page 9 of the report and how the requirements had been calculated. It was suggested that it would be beneficial for the meeting on the 13 October 2011 to disaggregate the sharp sand, gravel and soft sand figures for sites. The Cabinet also felt, in response to the submission of the deputies, that it would be appropriate to advise the meeting on the 13 October with an assessment of the economic impact on businesses in the Hamble area if the Hamble Airfield site were to be worked.

The Cabinet agreed the recommendations set out in the report and noted that the County Council would finalise the draft Plan for publication at the Extraordinary Meeting on 13 October 2011.

The decision record is attached to these Minute as Appendix 1.

255 **OFSTED INSPECTION OF SAFEGUARDING AND LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN SERVICES**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Children's Services (Item 6 in the Minute Book) about the findings of the Ofsted inspection of safeguarding and looked after children services.

The Director of Children's Services was pleased to report that the County Council and its partners had achieved 'outstanding' or 'good' judgements for all 22 areas of Ofsted's recent inspection of safeguarding and looked after children services. The inspection was a three yearly intensive review of services for the most vulnerable children including a strong focus on child protection.

In particular, the inspection found that leadership and management of safeguarding services for the county's 307,000 children and young people was outstanding, with inspectors finding "a strong sense of safeguarding being everyone's business".

The Cabinet wholeheartedly welcomed the findings of the inspection and asked that the officers, staff and the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services and his two assistants be formally thanks for their contribution to the assessment, and note that children in care and safeguarding are key areas.

In considering this report the Director of Children's Services also reported to the Cabinet that the department had just received notification that it would become a pathfinder for the South East 7 Group on Special Educational Needs/Children and Social Care and Healthcare.

The amended decision record is attached to these minutes as Appendix 2.

256 **JOINT WORKING IN HAMPSHIRE : A STRATEGIC CASE**

The following Members declared the following interests in this item:

Councillor M. Kendal as a Member of the Police Authority.
Councillor K. Chapman as a Member of the Fire Authority.

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Chief Executive and County Treasurer (Item 7 in the Minute Book) setting out a strategic case for joint working in Hampshire for the operation of specific support services. The report explored the opportunities of building on existing arrangements to work more closely with Hampshire Constabulary and Hampshire Fire and

Rescue Service to achieve mutual efficiencies and service improvements.

The Cabinet welcomed the direction of travel and suggested that when the business case was drafted consideration should be given to future liabilities that may arise between the partner organisations and how this can be covered in the governance arrangements.

The decision record is attached to these minutes as Appendix 3.

257 LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESOURCE REVIEW – CONSULTATION RESPONSE

Due to time constraints this item was deferred.

258 FIRST QUARTER BUDGET MONITORING 2011/12

The Cabinet considered a report of the County Treasurer (Item 9 in the Minute Book) outlining the key issues arising from budget monitoring in the first quarter of 2011/12.

The decision record is attached to these minutes as Appendix 4.

259 NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK CONSULTATION

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment (Item 10 in the Minute Book) about potential issues likely to be of concern to the County Council arising out of the draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

The Cabinet discussed in detail the implications of the draft NPPF currently out for consultation by the Government and made the following observations:

- whether the NPPF set a reasonable national context for managing planning at a local level and whether it was deliverable;
- whether the ‘presumption in favour of sustainable development’ would ensure a balanced approach to decision making on planning matters, particularly whether a proper balance was being struck between economic growth and environmental and social or community considerations;
- whether cutting down national policy guidance so drastically still enables the Framework to provide sufficient policy guidance for decision makers, particularly during the transition from current Core Strategies to Local Plans prepared under the new guidance;
- whether the Framework put in place sufficient safeguards for countryside outside National Parks or other national designations, and provided sufficient protection for strategic and local open

space gaps to separate individual settlements and prevent urban sprawl;

- and whether the Framework gives the County Council the ability to secure the funding and co-operation from other authorities and stakeholders needed to be able to deliver infrastructure and services to support new development and deliver genuinely sustainable communities.

The deadline for responses to the Government's Draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was 17 October 2011.

An amended decision record is attached at Appendix 5.

260 MINUTES – HAMPSHIRE ECONOMIC BOARD – 16 FEBRUARY, 2011

The Minutes held on 16 February, 2011 were confirmed as a correct record.

261 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The press and public were excluded from the meeting during the following item was likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during that item there would be disclosure to them of exempt information within Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, and further that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information for the reasons set out in the report.

262 APPENDIX – JOINT WORKING IN HAMPSHIRE – A STRATEGIC CASE

The Cabinet considered an exempt Appendix relating to Minute No. 256 above.