

AT A MEETING of the CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE of the COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle Winchester on Friday, 15 January 2010.

**PRESENT**

Chairman:

p Councillor Stephen Reid

Vice-Chairman:

p Councillor Frederick Allgood

Councillors:

p Charlotte Bailey

p Ray Bolton

a Rita Burgess

p Brian Dash

a Adrian Evans

p Keith Evans

p David Keast

a Roger Kimber

p Anna McNair Scott

a Roz Muschamp

p Pam Mutton

a Sam Payne

p Jackie Porter

p Jenny Radley

a David Simpson

a Bruce Tennent

a John West

a Pat West

Co-opted Members:

a Tony Blackshaw – Diocese of Winchester

a Urszula Topp – Diocese of Portsmouth

p Michael White – Parent Governor

a Sally Dace – Parent Governor

Also in attendance Councillors: Peter Edgar, Assistant to Executive Member for Children's Services (Education) and Marilyn Tucker, Assistant to Executive Member for Children's Services (Safeguarding).

17. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Members were mindful that, where they believed they had a personal or personal prejudicial interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting, they should normally at the time of the debate declare their interest, and having regard to the circumstances described in paragraphs 9, 10, 11 and 12 of the County Council's Code of Conduct, consider 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.

There were two declarations of interest:

Cllr Jenny Radley declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest, as she is a member of a fostering panel.

Cllr Frederick Allgood declared a personal, non prejudicial interest, as he is portfolio holder for finance and efficiency at Winchester City Council.

18. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Committee held on 8 October 2009 were, subject to an amendment to record Cllr Ray Bolton's apologies, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

19. **CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Chairman noted that the County's staff, especially those concerned with schools, should be praised for their efforts during the recent heavy snow days, and the way in which they exercised responsible management of closures to minimise disruption of children's education through the exceptionally hazardous weather conditions.

The Chairman also wished to convey the Committee's best wishes for a speedy recovery to David Pryke following the injury to his arm in the recent icy conditions.

20. **REVENUE BUDGET 2010/11 – 2012/13**

The County Treasurer provided an overview of the key issues in the revenue budget (Item 4 in the Minute Book). Topics included:

- The main variances in the schools budget 2009/10
- Variances in the non-schools budget 2009/10
- 2010/11 schools budget – headroom
- Schools budget – agreed use of headroom
- Further information on 2010/11 – additional headroom
- Non-school budget – agreed pressures
- Non-school budget – redeployment
- Efficiency improvements/budget savings 2010/11
- Summary – schools budget
- Summary – non-schools budget

The following summarises the Committee's main comments on the revenue budget:

- Savings were being predicted in managing down the

number of children looked after. Whilst not doubting the basis on which the projection had been made, it was nevertheless a risk to be "banking" the savings before they were realised.

- The extent to which alternative approaches to delivering services are successful, as they introduce risk of overspend or service cuts if not successful.
- Challenging economic decisions might be expected from Government after the general election which could impact on Hampshire's revenue streams. There was a risk, unquantifiable at this stage, that some assumptions built into the budget might not hold true.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the Committee recommends to the Executive Member for Children's Services that the recommendations in the budget report be approved.
- b) That the comments above regarding risks attaching to potential cost savings should be forwarded to the Executive Member
- c) That the County Treasurer be thanked for their presentation.

21. **CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2010/11 – 2012/13**

The County Treasurer presented the Capital Programme, drawing attention to key items in the report (Item 5 in the Minute Book) which includes details of:

- The revised budget for 2009/10
- Base budget for 2010/11
- Proposals for growth and redeployment 2010/11, 2011/12 and 2012/13
- Efficiency statement
- Review of income 2010/11
- Business units – summary of trading accounts
- Revenue budget 2010/11 – analysis of variations by division of service
- Revenue Budget 2010/11 – budget book detail
- Workforce levels and costs 2009/10 revised
- Provisional budget 2011/12 and 2012/13
- Provisional budget 2011/12 and 2012/13 – analysis

The following summarises the Committee's main comments on the capital programme:

- That in reference to developer contributions, concern

was expressed that in some cases such arrangements have not always worked out as expected, with some developers obtaining planning permission but subsequently failing to deliver the contribution. Members were assured that current negotiations and contracts are well specified with appropriate safeguards.

- Whether lower cost approaches might be possible to address improvements to repairing and improving temporary classrooms under the New Deal for Schools initiative. The Committee was informed that until recently there had been a tendency to replace temporary buildings in a poor state, rather than repair them. The present economic conditions, however, mean that careful consideration has to be given to balancing a range of critical factors in each case, before a decision is made.
- Due to population expansion in areas of Hampshire, 2012/13 will be a year in which some secondary expansion may be necessary due to recent housing development in areas of the County. However the Capital Programme does not appear to take these demographic changes into account. Subsequent discussion recognised this as a potential issue, but it was also acknowledged that even the current assumptions built into the Programme indicated that Government funding is unlikely to provide many opportunities for investment by local authorities for some while to come.
- That great care should be exercised by the Executive Member in view of the changed economic conditions that may now challenge some of the original assumptions that underpinned development of the capital programme.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee endorse the recommendations (Section 22 in the report, Decision ref 1002) to the Executive Member for Children's Services.

## 22. **2009 OFSTED REPORT**

The Director of Children's Services summarised the main areas identified in the Ofsted letter (Item 6 in Minute Book). He noted that overall the Ofsted assessment of Children's Services in Hampshire was good. A more detailed analysis of Children's Services performance would be provided to the Committee at its next meeting, scheduled for 15 April.

RESOLVED:

The Committee noted the report.

23. **CAA Summary**

The Chief Executive presented the report (Item 7 in Minute Book). The Committee was advised that a more detailed and informative performance report for Children's Services is to be provided at the 15 April meeting.

RESOLVED:

The Committee noted the report.

24. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chief Executive presented the Committee's forthcoming work programme (Item 8 in the Minute Book).

The Chairman invited Members of the Committee to consider items in the Work Programme with a view to identifying those that give the Committee a real opportunity to add value through providing comment to the Executive Member or potentially through undertaking 'light touch' or 'in depth' reviews.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the report be noted
- b) That the Work Programme be reviewed by Members before the next meeting in order to identify and prioritise those themes Members' want to concentrate on. Comments to be passed to the Chairman or Scrutiny Officer for discussion at the April meeting.