

AT A MEETING of the Cabinet of HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held at the Castle on 7 DECEMBER 2015.

**Chairman:
p Councillor Roy Perry**

Councillors:

p	Peter Edgar	p	Keith Mans
p	Liz Fairhurst	p	Stephen Reid
p	Andrew Gibson	p	Patricia Stallard
p	Andrew Joy	p	Seán Woodward
p	Mel Kendal		

Also present with the agreement of the Chairman: Councillors J. Bennison, R Bolton, C. Carter, J. England, K. Evans, R. Humby, R. Huxstep, and A. McNair-Scott,

182. 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 for broadcasting purposes.

183. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All members of Cabinet were in attendance.

184. 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.

185. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 October 2015 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

186. DEPUTATIONS

No deputation requests had been received.

187. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman thanked Councillor Mans for chairing the previous meeting in his absence and noted that a letter had been received from Greg Clark, acknowledging his contribution to the Conservative Party conference.

The recent announcement that Local Authorities would be able to raise additional Council Tax to support Adult Social Care was highlighted and the Chairman confirmed that this option would be considered, taking into account the three key groups of service users, Council staff and tax-payers.

The Chairman reported on a number of meetings he had recently attended, including discussions with other County Leaders through the County Council Network and the South East Strategic Leaders. He had also met with senior MPs in his role of Chairman of the LGA's Children and Young People Board.

It was confirmed that authority had been given to fly the French Tricolour at half mast at County Council headquarters, in solidarity with the French people, following the recent terrorist attacks in Paris.

188. BUDGET SETTING AND PROVISIONAL CASH LIMITS 2016/17

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director Corporate Resources – Corporate Services (item 6 in the Minute Book) giving an update on the financial position in respect of the current financial year and highlighting key issues for the County Council following the Spending Review announcement in November.

The report was introduced and it was highlighted that this provided an update leading into the formal budget setting process in the new year, which would be subject to the grant settlement announcement later in December. The current position and pressures were set out and with regard to the transfer of Business Rates, it was noted that this would likely be balanced with additional responsibilities. The opportunity to increase Council Tax to support Adult Social Care costs was highlighted and it was furthermore noted that the continued availability of Council Tax freeze grant remained unknown.

The Q2 budget monitoring position was presented and Cabinet heard that net spending was below budget, although there was significant pressure in some areas. The position in individual departments was detailed and it was noted that measures were in place to contain spending on Adult Social Care, however a future adjustment in base budget may be required.

Members welcomed the report and discussed key points. It was noted that clarity was awaited on changes to education support grant, furthermore that Schools Forum were considering options to mitigate increased pressure on school

budgets. The impact of the apprentice funding levy was questioned and it was agreed that full details of how this works would be circulated to Cabinet following the meeting.

The recommendations set out in the report were considered and agreed, with an additional resolution to recognise both the option to raise Council Tax in support of Adult Social Care and the unknown position on Council Tax freeze grant. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 1.

189. TRANSFORMATION TO 2017 – REPORT No. 5

The Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Executive (item 7 in the Minute Book) on progress being made by departments as they commence implementation of the detailed savings proposals agreed by County Council in October this year.

The report was introduced and in light of the previous item, it was noted that a significant increase in Council Tax would still leave a substantial budget shortfall, therefore the Transformation to 2017 programme remained central to the future of the County Council.

The process of implementation of the programme within departments was set out, including through service specific consultations. It was noted that the ongoing consultation on libraries had already received 6700 electronic responses. Progress on savings targets was generally good; it was not anticipated that the full Adult Services savings would be achieved by the beginning of 2017/18, with a measured approach being taken to avoid destabilisation of service delivery.

The recommendations within the report were proposed and agreed. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 2.

190. SHAPING HAMPSHIRE: QUARTER TWO PERFORMANCE UPDATE

The Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Executive (item 8 in the Minute Book) on the progress of performance across the County Council against the Shaping Hampshire Plan as at end of September 2015.

Key performance highlights in the report were drawn to Cabinet's attention, in particular public satisfaction with highways, the school building programme, provision of school places, educational attainment and levels of broadband access. It was noted that performance was aligned to the Shaping Hampshire plan and given the level of ongoing structural change in the organisation and to individual roles, performance reporting would be reviewed to ensure it remained fit for purpose.

Members welcomed the report, recognising the achievements of individual departments. It was also recognised that success in the area of highway

maintenance was as a result of early investment though Operation Resilience and that this funding needed to continue for ongoing success.

The recommendations within the report were proposed and agreed, with an additional resolution to congratulate County Council staff on the achievements and success described in the report. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 3.

191. ADOPTION OF SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENTS FOR MINERALS AND WASTE SAFEGUARDING AND OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment (item 9 in the Minute Book) on progress being made with the preparation of the supplementary planning documents for minerals and waste safeguarding and oil and gas development.

The importance of minerals and waste policies to manage development and protect the environment was set out. It was explained that the two supplementary planning documents being recommended to County Council contained guidance on the implementation and interpretation of the substantive minerals and waste plan.

The recommendations within the report were proposed and agreed. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 4.

192. NEGOTIATION AND GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSAL OF A DEVOLUTION DEAL FOR HAMPSHIRE AND THE ISLE OF WIGHT

The Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Executive (item 10 in the Minute Book) on negotiation of a devolution deal for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

The progress to date on achieving a devolution deal was outlined and it was explained that an announcement from Government was expected in the New Year. It was important that the County Council was positioned to respond to this, however it was noted that any final decision would remain subject to Cabinet and Council approval.

Cabinet welcomed the report, noting that the areas of finance, infrastructure and housing would be central to any future deal. The opportunity to work together with partner Authorities to deliver improved outcomes for the people of Hampshire was recognised and it was emphasised that the focus of this was on drawing powers from Central Government.

It was noted that the exempt verbal update to this item detailed on the agenda was no longer required.

The recommendations within the report were proposed and agreed with a minor amendment. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 5.