

AT A MEETING of the Cabinet of HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held at the Castle on 20 JUNE 2016:

Chairman:
p Councillor Roy Perry

Councillors:

p	Peter Edgar	p	Mel Kendal
p	Liz Fairhurst	p	Keith Mans
a	Andrew Gibson	p	Stephen Reid
p	Rob Humby	p	Patricia Stallard
p	Andrew Joy		

Also present with the agreement of the Chairman: Councillors J. Bennison, R. Bolton, C. Carter, J. England, R. Huxstep and C. Wood.

220. 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.

221. MINUTE SILENCE

The Chairman paid tribute to murdered MP Jo Cox, expressing condolences to her family and deploring the circumstances that had led to her attack. Members stood for a minute's silence to pay their respect.

222. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Gibson, who was on jury duty.

223. 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.

224. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 June 2016 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

225. DEPUTATIONS

No deputation requests had been received. It was noted that Councillor Wood would speak on Item 7 with the agreement of the Chairman.

226. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman noted that it was a critical week for Britain's future involvement with the European Union with respect to the forthcoming referendum. Similarly it was highlighted that it was a key time for the future of Hampshire, with a number of proposals for the structure of local government in the area. The Chairman emphasised the importance of consultation with the public on the future of government in Hampshire.

227. TRANSFORMATION TO 2017: REPORT NO. 7

The Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Executive (Item 6 in the Minute Book) the County Council's Transformation to 2017 Programme.

The Chief Executive highlighted the key points of the report, noting that this was on top of £240 million already saved and in the context of challenging financial circumstances. Consultations relating to the Programme were outlined and it was noted that these gave the public the opportunity to contribute to and understand the changes being proposed.

Members recognised the hard work of officers in reaching this point and acknowledged that future savings would become increasingly difficult to achieve and the role of Cabinet in ensuring that the impact on service provision remained as low as possible.

The recommendations within the report were proposed and agreed. The decision record is attached to these minutes as Appendix 1.

228. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY TO 2020

The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Corporate Resources – Corporate Services outlining the medium term financial strategy to 2019/20. (Item 7 in the Minute Book).

Cabinet heard that the position was better than it had appeared to be in February due to transitional funding and other measures that had been taken to bring resources into the grant equalisation fund. It was highlighted that savings of £120 million from departmental cash limits (from an overall total challenge of £140 million) would be required by 2020 and the likely impact of business rate retention and of changes to grant settlement were set out.

With the agreement of the Chairman, Councillor Wood addressed Cabinet. Councillor Wood questioned whether £120 million of departmental savings by 2020 was achievable, particularly in the context of budgets for Adults and Children's Services already having faced extreme cuts and of pressures from an increasing population as a result of increased life expectancy and of immigration. Councillor Wood supported the Capital Programme, in particular the continuation of Operation Resilience and the Council's investment strategy. He put forward the view that the solution lay in cost reduction through local government reorganisation and the formation of a Unitary Authority as well as through departure from the European Union. Councillor Wood apologised for previously calling for the Leader's resignation, accepting the difficulties of the financial situation and pledging his support to Cabinet and officers for achieving the best outcome for Hampshire wherever possible.

Cabinet noted that the majority of immigration to Hampshire was internal from other areas of the United Kingdom and the net contribution of migrant communities, such as the Polish community to the area. The cumulative reduction in non-schools budget of 63 percent that would be achieved by 2020 was recognised as an enormous achievement and a number of key successes were highlighted. The scale and capacity of the County Council was considered to be a key factor in its ability to efficiently and effectively deliver services across Hampshire.

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

229. 2015/16 - END OF YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT

The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Corporate Resources – Corporate Services providing a summary of the 2015/16 accounts. (Item 8 in the Minute Book).

The overall end of year position and specific departmental circumstances were outlined to Cabinet. It was confirmed that non-departmental underspend was predominantly as a result of un-used contingency funds. The transition of £20 million to the Grant Equalisation Fund continued to leave a projected budget shortfall in 2018/19.

The recommendations within the report were proposed and agreed with a minor amendment. The decision record is attached to these minutes as Appendix 3.

230. SHAPING HAMPSHIRE – 2015/16 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Executive detailing the Annual Performance Report. (Item 9 in the Minute Book).

The report was introduced by the Executive Member for Human Resources and Performance, who outlined the significant benefits of the annual performance report, both as a measure of success and to guide business management. He

explained that in order to keep pace with the changing nature of the organisation, it would be reviewed and refreshed going forward to ensure continued relevance and benefit.

Cabinet welcomed the report, noting in particular success in the areas of school place provision and the school building programme as well as in falls in the rate of teenage pregnancy. It was acknowledged that the high standards achieved were as a result of not becoming complacent.

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

231. **WHITE PAPER, EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE EVERYWHERE**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Children's Services regarding the Government's White Paper, Educational Excellence Everywhere. (Item 10 in the Minute Book).

The Executive Member for Education introduced the report, confirming his support for continual improvement and noting that many elements featured in the White Paper were already being done in Hampshire. The importance of retaining the role of the local authority in school improvement was emphasised and Hampshire's recent success in supporting improvement on the Isle of Wight was noted. Cabinet heard that the White Paper was silent on the role of Special Schools as well as on the role the local authority in home schooling. Cabinet was supporting of further positive engagement by officers with the Department for Education in the passage of the legislation through Parliament and it was proposed that the County Council urge the Government to facilitate greater local authority support for home schooling.

The recommendations within the report were proposed and agreed with an addition to reflect Cabinet's support for the action of officers engaging with the Department for Education and with regard to home schooling. The decision record is attached to these minutes as Appendix 5.

Chairman, 19 September 2016