

AT A MEETING of the CABINET of HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held at the Castle on 26 July 2010.

Chairman:
p Councillor T. K. Thornber, CBE

Councillors:

p C. Davidovitz	p D.A. Kirk
p Dr. R. J. Ellis	p K. Mans
p Felicity Hindson, MBE	p R. Perry
p M.J. Kendal	p Mrs. M. D. Snaith- Tempia

Also present with the agreement of the Chairman Councillors F.G. Allgood, K.G. Chapman, B.D. Dash, P.R. Edgar, K. Evans, Mrs P. Mutton; Mrs M.J. Tucker and Mrs P. West.

Councillor Mrs J. Porter was also present.

119. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence as all Cabinet members were present.

120. 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.

121. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 June 2010 were confirmed as a correct record.

There were no matters arising.

122. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

- (a) Welcomed Councillor Mrs Pamela Mutton who was attending the meeting at the Chairman's invitation.
- (b) Confirmed that Councillor Brian Dash had given notice to speak on Item 5 on the agenda: Efficiencies and Expenditure

- Reductions.
- (c) Welcomed Mr Steve Dawson to the meeting who had indicated that he would also like to speak on Item 5 on the agenda. The Chairman confirmed that he would call Mr Dawson to speak at the appropriate time.
 - (d) Confirmed that Councillor Frederick Allgood had given notice to speak on Item 8 on the agenda: Carbon Strategy.
 - (e) The Chairman welcomed Ms Alison Craig, member of the Winchester Green Party to the meeting to make a deputation in regard to Item 8 on the agenda: Carbon Strategy. The Chairman confirmed that Item 8 would be called forward to be considered after the deputation had been received to allow the deputee an opportunity to hear the debate.
 - (f) Welcomed Christine Doel from SQW to the meeting in her capacity as Lead Researcher on the Economic Assessment (Item 9(a) on the agenda).
 - (g) Confirmed that Councillor Andrew Joy had given notice to speak on Item 10: County Council services in support of the Armed Forces.

123. **DEPUTATION**

The Cabinet received a deputation from Alison Craig, member of the Winchester Green Party regarding Item 8 on the agenda: Carbon Strategy.

The Chairman thanked Ms Craig and confirmed that he would respond to the specific points raised in the deputation.

124. **CARBON STRATEGY**

At the request of the Chairman, Item 8 on the agenda: Carbon Strategy was called forward.

The Cabinet considered the joint report of the Director of Environment and Director of Property, Business and Regulatory Services (Item 8 in the Minute Book) providing an update on the Carbon Strategy for the County Council and other climate change matters. The Assistant Director of Property Services expanded on the main points of the report particularly drawing to Members attention Section 3 of the report, the Carbon Management Plan 2010-2015 which included programmed work together with future initiatives and behaviour change programmes. In addition, the Assistant Director reported that the carbon emissions reduction target for the County Council set at 20% was an ambitious target that had been carefully thought out and was achievable having taken into account several key considerations.

The Cabinet welcomed the report and the initiatives set out in the Carbon Management Plan which recognised the growing importance of climate change and responded to an evolving and fast moving

agenda. Setting a realistic target that could be achieved and which would accord with the County Council's commitment to the Aalborg priorities was important. It was noted that District Heating feasibility studies are being undertaken in a number of urban areas at the request of the Executive Member for Environment. The Cabinet also highlighted the importance of engaging with the Schools Forum to encourage it to take carbon management initiatives into account when distributing the schools budget at a time when pressures on schools finance would be increasing. It would therefore be important to invest in such initiatives immediately to reap the benefits further down the line which would be both cost effective and contribute to the County Council's carbon management programme. In conclusion, the Cabinet was very supportive of the overall strategy outlined in the report, which also did not prevent future developments and additional initiatives being implemented as more knowledge and understanding was obtained.

The Cabinet adopted the recommendations set out in the report. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 1.

125. **WINTER MAINTENANCE**

At the request of the Chairman, Items 11(a), Winter Maintenance and 11(b), Update regarding a review of the severe winter weather experienced in Hampshire in 2009/10, on the agenda were called forward and considered as a single item.

The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Environment (Item 11 (a) in the Minute Book) updating the Cabinet on the review of the County Council's winter service to increase its resilience in the future. The Director of Environment expanded on the main points of the report particularly:

- the construction of a new 4,000 tonne salt storage barn at Micheldever highways depot
- investigation of a suitable site in the south east of Hampshire for a second new barn
- an increase in salt procured through the THC contract to 18,000 tonnes
- the provision of 1,000 extra 'Hampshire County Council' liveried salt bin as a first phase
- development of a number of new mini-salting routes to serve Hampshire schools and other community facilities during severe weather events or extended freezing condition.

and reported that steps had been taken to improve resilience for the future.

The Cabinet welcomed progress with the review and the specific points above. The new salt barn together with additional salt bins and

school/community routes in place would put Hampshire in a strengthened position to meet statutory obligations. The Director also confirmed that work was ongoing to investigate engaging the help of the farming community in the future to make use of the machinery they have during bouts of severe weather and undertaking discussions with Parish Councils as part of an ongoing programme of work once the location of the additional salt bins had been established.

The Cabinet adopted the recommendations set out in the report together with an additional resolution that the review of salting routes including the additional community routes be reported back to Cabinet at an early date. The substantive decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 2.

126. UPDATE REGARDING SCRUTINY REVIEW OF SEVERE WINTER WEATHER EXPERIENCED IN HAMPSHIRE 2009/10

The Cabinet considered the report of the Policy and Resources Select Committee (Item 11(b) in the Minute Book) on the progress made to date on the scrutiny review of severe winter weather experienced in Hampshire in 2009/10. The Chairman of the Policy and Resources Select Committee expanded on the main points in the report. He particularly highlighted the key themes that were emerging such as the use of 4x4 vehicles and trained drivers as a potential resource during severe bouts of weather, supported the engagement with farmers as referred to by the Director of Environment in the previous item, and the opportunities that existed to further improve communications with partners including District and Parish Councils and the Highways Agency.

The Cabinet welcomed progress with this review and noted that the final outcome report would be submitted to Cabinet at its meeting on 27 September 2010. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 3.

127. EFFICIENCIES AND EXPENDITURE REDUCTIONS: TRANSFORMING THE COUNTY COUNCIL

The Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Executive (Item 5 in the Minute Book) proposing a range of efficiency measures and expenditure reductions following the Government's spending cuts to help reduce the national deficit. In expanding on the report, the Chief Executive commented that potential reductions in Government funding of 25% over the next four years could mean a loss of £35 to £40 million for the County Council. It would therefore be important to take forward the efficiency programme to reduce expenditure and begin the process of transforming County Council services to meet the expected Government funding reductions.

The Cabinet was supportive of the thrust of the report which was necessary to meet the unprecedented challenges the County Council and other local authorities faced. Difficult choices would need to be made whilst mitigating the impact on frontline services and ensuring statutory duties continued to be met. However, past prudent management of the County Council put the organisation in a good position to meet the challenges that lay ahead. The Cabinet emphasised that in the current climate it would be important to plan for the future and use resources, people and time effectively as well as continuing to foster good partnership arrangements with the voluntary sector and other partners. No option could be left unexplored and a considered approach would be taken to resolve difficulties in a fair, equitable and sensitive manner.

In conclusion, the Cabinet requested that between September and December progress reports be submitted to it by the Chief Executive. The next milestone would be the announcement of the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review on 20 October and decisions that would be taken prior to and post that date.

The Chairman invited Mr Dawson to speak at this point of the proceedings and confirmed that he would respond to the specific points raised shortly.

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

128. **CORPORATE WORKFORCE PROFILE REPORT COVERING THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2009/10**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Human Resources (Item 6 in the Minute Book) summarising the County Council's workforce profile as at 31 March 2010 and highlighting key workforce statistics for the financial year 2009-2010. In expanding on the report, the Director drew Members attention to the Workforce Profile summary and in responding to questions confirmed that schools had particularly requested help with absence management which was non teaching staff appeared in that category.

In welcoming the report the Cabinet noted its contents, in particular the trends within sections. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 5.

129. **ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Economic Development (Item 7(a) in the Minute Book) seeking approval of the Hampshire Local Economic Assessment for consultation. The Director made a presentation which expanded on the main points in the report.

In receiving the report and the presentation, the Cabinet thanked Christine Doel for attending the meeting to answer detailed technical questions. The Cabinet noted the statutory duty that had been placed on upper tier authorities to produce a Local Economic Assessment, the aim of which was to be a common evidence base for local authorities and their partners, enabling robust and consistent local responses to economic development challenges.

The Cabinet approved the draft Hampshire Local Economic Assessment for consultation and delegated authority to the Director of Economic Development, in consultation with the Executive Member for Economic Development and Rural Affairs, to approve the technical annexes of the Assessment. The substantive decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 6.

130. LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIPS

The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Economic Development (Item 7(b) in the Minute Book) concerning the Government's invitation to councils and businesses to submit expressions of interest in forming Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs). In expanding on the main points in the report, the Director confirmed that the position in respect of LEPs was evolving therefore a clear picture from the Government about resources and practice was yet to crystallize. Two White Papers were to be introduced which would also have implications in regard to the LEP agenda.

In considering the report, the Cabinet emphasised the importance of preparing an LEP which concentrates on a partnership working at two levels - Hampshire wide and beyond Hampshire.

The Cabinet adopted the recommendations set out in the report subject to a revision to recommendation 6.1 to reflect the Cabinet's views as detailed above. The substantive decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 7.

131. BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE – UPDATE REPORT

The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Children's Services (Item 9 in the Minute Book) providing an update on the recent announcement by the Secretary of State for Education about the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme and its likely implications for the County Council. The Director expanded briefly on the main points within the report.

The Cabinet noted the announcement by the Secretary of State for Education on 5 July 2010 and further noted the wide ranging review of options for capital investment in schools that was being undertaken by the Department for Education. The Cabinet were of the view that it would be imperative that the County Council positions itself to be able

to respond to whatever may replace the Building Schools for the Future initiative and to continue to work with the Government to ensure that the varied challenges that the County Council faced were fully understood. The Director confirmed that work was on-going to ensure any new methodology of schools capital allocation should recognise that a county the size of Hampshire would receive no BSF funding; that any analysis based on the need for places should be sophisticated to recognise the varying internal pressures of a large county; and that the condition of school buildings should be influential.

The Cabinet adopted the recommendations set out in the report. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 8.

132. **COUNTY COUNCIL SERVICES IN SUPPORT OF THE ARMED FORCES IN HAMPSHIRE**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Executive (Item 10 in the Minute Book) seeking approval to proposals for new partnership working with the Armed Forces, Health and other partners to enhance the strategic planning and delivery of services in support of the Armed Forces in Hampshire. In expanding on the report, the Head of the County Development Task Force highlighted the impact the presence of the Armed Forces has on the economy, environment, culture and communities of Hampshire and the need to plan for any changes arising from the Strategic Defence and Security Review. The Armed Forces community was under particular pressure due to the nature and frequency of deployments to Afghanistan and from previous conflicts and it was important for the County Council to provide strong support for serving personnel, their families and veterans. The County Council was working up proposals through its role as one of the Government's Welfare Pathway Pilots and the proposed civilian/military partnership. This would enable local needs to be identified and addressed as well as those issues which were common to service people across the County. The particular needs of reservists before, during and after deployment abroad.

The Chairman invited Councillor Joy to speak at this point of the proceedings.

In welcoming the report, Members highlighted the work that had been done with 145 Brigade in Aldershot initially under the leadership of Brigadier Miles Wade and which was continuing with Brigadier Nigel Baverstock. The Cabinet noted the recent decision taken by the Executive Member for Adult Social Care which approved a joint mental health strategy which would extend the support for veterans in response to their expected need for long term welfare support. The importance of the County Council having good working relationships with organisations such as the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and families Association (SSAFA) and the Royal British Legion was recognised

together with sharing relevant information with District Councils, particularly in regard to housing issues.

The Cabinet adopted the recommendations set out in the report. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 9.

133. **CHANGES IN RESPONSIBILITY FOR EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Executive (Item 12 in the Minute Book) confirming changes to the responsibility for executive functions in respect of the Policy and Resources and Communities portfolios.

The Cabinet noted the changes to Executive functions set out in the report, which would be reported to Council in September 2010. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 10.

134. **HAMPSHIRE LOCAL COUNCILS PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Executive (Item 13 in the Minute Book) proposing that a new Partnership Framework with the Hampshire Association of Local Councils be adopted by the County Council which recognises common objectives and sets principles for working in partnership.

In welcoming the partnership framework, the Cabinet highlighted the Parish Lengthsmen Scheme which was a good way of getting minor works undertaken and completed with minimum bureaucracy. In response to Member enquiries, the Chief Executive undertook to provide clarification on a number of points, which officers had taken note of, outside the meeting.

The Cabinet adopted the recommendations set out in the report. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 11.

135. **DRIVING SUCCESS: CHIEF OFFICER SELF-ASSESSMENTS: 2009/10 QUARTER FOUR**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Executive (Item 14 in the Minute Book). In receiving the report, the Cabinet noted that this concludes performance reporting for 2009/10 and that the current style of reporting would be reshaped in light of the abolition of the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA).

The Cabinet adopted the recommendations set out in the report. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 12.