

AT A MEETING of the CABINET of HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held at the Castle on 29 November 2010.

Chairman:
p Councillor T. K. Thornber, CBE

Councillors:

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

Also present with the agreement of the Chairman: B Dash; P. Edgar; Mrs J. Porter, Mrs M.J. Tucker and Mrs S. Wheale.

165. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs K. Chapman and P. West. There were no apologies for members of Cabinet.

166. 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.

167. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 October 2010 were confirmed as a correct record.

Matters arising:

In respect of minute 156. Freedom of Information, the Chairman advised the Cabinet that following his letter to the Local Government Association (LGA) regarding the potential for charging commercial organisations for information, the LGA had taken up the Council's request and would be consulting all Council's on the suggestion.

168. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

169. **2010/11 BUDGET MONITORING UPDATE**

The Cabinet considered the report of the County Treasurer (Item 5 in the Minute Book) providing an update on the budget position at the end of the first half of the year. The County Treasurer explained that, within children's and adult services there had been good progress in managing the demand led pressures and in year grant reductions. She also pointed out the underspends in employee budgets accrued as a result of the recruitment freeze.

The Cabinet welcomed the sound financial management and monitoring of budgets, and noted that the savings achieved were due to efficiency measures. The Cabinet adopted the recommendations set out in the report. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 1.

170. **FLOOD AND WATER MANAGEMENT ACT 2010**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Environment (Item 6 in the Minute Book) on the Flood and Water Management Act and its implications for the County Council. The Director explained that although the Council had begun work on the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) required by the Act, this could not be completed until the Environment Agency had published its maps on default flood risk, which were expected in November 2011, although this was likely to be delayed.

During the discussion, the Director outlined the new duties placed upon the Council, as detailed within the report and confirmed that the County Council was likely to receive funding at a level between £594,000 and £888,000 although this was subject to working through the decisions of the comprehensive spending review and the funding formula. The Cabinet expressed concern about the additional financial burden placed on the Council and its lack of power in relation to controlling development in flood risk areas other than to make representations to the appropriate planning authority. The Cabinet agreed that a general workshop for County and District Members take place and requested that representatives of the Hampshire Association of Local Councils and the South Downs and New Forest National Park Authorities be invited. The Cabinet acknowledged that much local knowledge of flood areas was known in the parishes and therefore it was agreed that parish councils and community groups be encouraged to put in place local emergency plans in relation to flooding and other emergency situations, with advice from the County Emergency Planning Officer if necessary.

The Cabinet adopted the recommendations set out in the report subject to the additional resolution on encouraging parish councils and community groups to make emergency plans to mitigate the effects of flooding and severe weather. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 2.

171. WINTER MAINTENANCE – SALTING ROUTE REVIEW

The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Environment (Item 7 in the Minute Book) on the review of winter salting routes. The Director explained that following the severe winter weather of 2009/10, the salting routes had been enhanced to include nine additional community routes which would ensure that routes to schools, community centres, hospitals and major shopping areas were kept open in the event of severe weather. The Cabinet welcomed the new measures which would address concerns of local residents, including the provision of an additional salt barn which was in progress, 1300 new salt bins that were already being distributed as requested by parish councils and a further 600 that had been ordered to respond to further requests being made by Parishes and local groups.

The Director advised that the County Council had salt stocks equalling 18,000 tonnes, which was three times the government recommendation. Further stocks were also being procured from overseas as it was unlikely that the UK salt mines would be able to meet demand given the severe start to the winter.

The Cabinet adopted the recommendations set out in the report and the decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 3.

172. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That the public be excluded from the meeting during the following item of business, as it is 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 Paragraphs 2 and 3 of Part 1 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

173. EFFICIENCIES AND EXPENDITURE REDUCTIONS: TRANSFORMING THE COUNTY COUNCIL – REPORT 4

The Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Executive (Item 9 in the Minute Book) on progress in relation to efficiencies, expenditure reductions and transforming Hampshire County Council in light of government spending reductions (DETAIL IN EXEMPT MINUTE).

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