

AT A MEETING of the Cabinet of HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held at the Castle on 21 SEPTEMBER 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. Huxstep, A. McNair-Scott, E. Still and S. Wheale

162. **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.

163. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

All Cabinet Members were in attendance.

164. **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.

With regards to item 6 on the agenda (New Forest Management Plan), Councillor Mans declared a personal interest as a Member of the New Forest National Park Authority.

165. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 July 2015 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

166. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations.

167. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed Members to the meeting. He explained that he would need to tender his apologies for the next meeting of Cabinet on 5 October 2015 as he had been asked by the Secretary of State to speak at the Conservative Party Conference. As a result, the Chairman took the opportunity to express his personal thanks to Andrew Smith, Chief Executive before his retirement in October 2015, for his work and commitment to the County Council. It was confirmed that the recruitment of a new Chief Executive was progressing well and it was anticipated that an appointment would be made before Andrew Smith stepped down. The Chairman noted that Gill Duncan, Director of Adult Social Care would also retire in October 2015 and extended his appreciation to her for the way in which she had discharged her duties in such a difficult service area.

Cabinet received an update on a recent SE7 meeting at which asylum seekers had been discussed. The Chairman confirmed that the number of people involved for Hampshire was not yet known and would be subject to confirmation by Government. The particularly high cost of caring for juvenile asylum seekers was highlighted as an additional budget pressure.

The Chairman informed Members that he had recently attended the opening of Hindson House in Basingstoke and praised the facilities available there.

Cabinet heard that the Chairman had been appointed as Chairman of the LGA's Children and Young People Board and was looking forward to bringing his own and the County Council's experience in the area of Children's Services to the role.

168. NEW FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment (item 6 in the Minute Book) presenting the new New Forest Management Plan 2015-2020.

The Director introduced the report, explaining that the new Plan had been drawn up as an update and roll forward the original, and that the County Council had been involved in this at a number of levels. It was confirmed that Cabinet were being asked to endorse the revised Plan on behalf of the County Council.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Alison Barnes (Chief Executive of the New Forest National Park) addressed Cabinet. She thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to speak and proceeded to outline the partnership approach that had been taken on the review of the Management Plan. This had drawn on the project work that had been undertaken with partners and had helped to lead to a consensus of putting the Forest first. The Chief Executive thanked the County

Council for the strong support which had been provided to the National Park's work.

Members welcomed the comments that had been made and noted the support that the National Park was currently giving to the devolution bid for Hampshire. It was emphasised that Hampshire's prosperity should not be at the expense of its environment. Cabinet were keen to re-enforce the uniqueness and branding of the National Park and it was confirmed that work was underway to support this in respect of the highway environment, although resources to do so were limited.

The recommendations set out in the report were considered and agreed. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 1.

169. TRANSFORMATION TO 2017 AND BUILDING STRATEGIC CAPACITY FOR THE FUTURE

7a. TRANSFORMATION TO 2017: CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

7b. TRANSFORMATION TO 2017: REPORT No. 4

7c. TRANSFORMATION TO 2017: DIGITAL PROGRESS AND NEXT STEPS

The Cabinet considered reports of the Chief Executive and the Director of Corporate Resources – Corporate Services, setting out the progress and next steps of the Transformation to 2017 programme. This item was divided into three inter-related reports: to report the outcomes of the recent consultation exercise; to present the fourth progress update on the Transformation programme and to set out proposals to drive delivery through the Digital Programme.

The Chief Executive and the Director outlined the reports. It was noted that the outcomes of the consultation exercise on the proposed savings gave Cabinet an indication of the public view of those proposals, which would be the subject of a further report at the Cabinet meeting of 5 October 2015. Key progress on the ongoing programme of Transformation to 2017 was highlighted, in particular the appendix relating to the Better Care Fund. Cabinet heard that updates to the digital infrastructure of the County Council were proposed to both provide direct efficiencies and to facilitate the transformation of other services and underpin the delivery of savings across the organisation.

Cabinet welcomed the reports and agreed that the digital investment proposed was a prudent use of reserves that would benefit the Authority in the longer term. It was also noted that going forwards some areas where change was proposed would prove challenging. It was asked whether the digital investment would also draw in business to the County Council and it was confirmed that this was possible, although it had not been factored into the business case at this stage, so would amount to an additional revenue opportunity.

The recommendations within the Consultation Outcomes report (7a) were proposed and agreed, with an addition to recognise that the outcomes would be

taken into account for future decision making. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 2.

The recommendations within the Transformation update report (7b) were proposed and agreed with additions to draw the attention of the Health and Wellbeing Board to the Better Care Fund situation and to agree that a letter be sent to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and to the Local Government Association requesting that resources released by the implementation of the Care Act be directed towards Adult Social Care. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 3.

The recommendations within the Digital Progress report were proposed and agreed, noting that this was to be funded from the Corporate Efficiency Reserve. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 4.

170. **DEVOLUTION: UPDATE ON PROGRESS**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Executive (item 8 in the Minute Book) regarding Devolution.

The context of the devolution bid and the level of agreement that had been reached with other Local Authorities and partner organisations was set out. It was noted that the Secretary of State had expressed appreciation for the bid and it was anticipated that a response would be given later in the autumn. Members acknowledged that acceptance of the bid would signal the beginning of a period of negotiation and cooperation as well as an opportunity for the County Council to use its strengths and local knowledge to ensure success.

It was confirmed that although the model did not initially appear to be appropriate for Hampshire, the option of a locally elected Mayor would be properly considered.

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

171. **RESPONSIBILITY FOR EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Monitoring Officer (item 9 in the Minute Book) regarding Constitutional updates to reflect changed responsibilities for Executive Functions.

Cabinet received and welcomed the report, noting in particular the new role of “Assistant to the Executive – Rural Affairs Champion” and acknowledging that an opinion was being sought from the Independent Remuneration Panel regarding a Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) for this position, as well as a review of the SRA for the Chairman of the Pension Fund Panel, following changes to that Panel’s responsibilities.

The recommendations within the report were proposed and agreed. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 6.