

AT A MEETING of the Cabinet of HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held at the Castle on 15 DECEMBER 2014.

Chairman:
p Councillor Roy Perry

Councillors:

| | | | |
|---|---------------|---|---------------|
| a | Keith Chapman | p | Mel Kendal |
| p | Peter Edgar | p | Keith Mans |
| p | Liz Fairhurst | p | Stephen Reid |
| p | Andrew Joy | p | Seán Woodward |

Also present with the agreement of the Chairman: Councillors R Bolton, A. Gibson, A. Hooke and E. Still

107. 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.

108. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Chapman.

Apologies were also received from Councillors Wheale, Stallard and McNair-Scott, who had a standing invitation to attend the meeting.

109. 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.

110. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 October 2014 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

111. DEPUTATIONS

No deputations.

It was noted that Councillor Hooke had received prior agreement from the Chairman to speak in relation to item 7 on the agenda (Transformation to 2015).

112. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman wished everyone well for Christmas and the New Year. He noted the many successes in 2014, including: the recognition of the strength of Children's Services by Ofsted; the progress of Adult Services in spite of financial pressures; the high quality of Hampshire's road network; the work that had been undertaken on flood prevention and the formation of the Hampshire Cultural Trust. He welcomed these successes, highlighting that they had been achieved whilst Council Tax was the lowest of all upper tier Local Authorities in the South East.

It was clarified that there would be a series of meetings and briefings in the new year for Members with regards to the review of County Council electoral boundaries by the Boundary Commission.

The Chairman had recently met with the Minister for Local Government on the subject of English devolution. He had also been part of a delegation from the South East Strategic Leaders that had met with Sir Bob Kerslake on the same matter.

The likelihood of continued pressure on Local Government finances was highlighted. It was confirmed that a £3 million Belwin payment had been agreed with regards the cost of the response to flooding earlier in 2014.

Finally, the Chairman announced the completion of the refurbishment of Romsey Magistrates Court as part of the County Council's Workstyle programme. He noted that 280,000 square feet of office space had been removed as part of the overall programme, and substantial economies generated.

113. BUDGET SETTING AND PROVISIONAL CASH LIMITS 2015/16

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Corporate Resources (item 6 in the Minute Book) updating Cabinet on the financial position in respect of the current financial year together with the first half year performance for Treasury Management. It also set out the process and framework for the setting of the 2015/16 budget and set provisional targets for Departments as part of the Transformation to 2017 programme. Members noted that a revised version of the report had been circulated prior to the meeting and received a supplementary note setting out saving requirements and Council Tax levels.

A stable financial position for the County Council was set in the context of the Transformation to 2015 and the Transformation to 2017 programmes. Members noted that by 2017/18, the Council's budget would reduce by 45 percent in comparison with 2010/11.

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

114. **TRANSFORMATION TO 2015 REPORT 6**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Executive (item 7 in the Minute Book) providing an update on the overall achievement of expenditure reductions with regard to the Transformation to 2015 programme.

With the agreement of the Chairman, Councillor Hooke addressed the meeting. Stating that his comments were based on information received from County Council social workers, Councillor Hooke expressed concerns about staff being unhappy in their jobs, struggling with workload and suffering low morale whilst being concerned about the possibility of services being outsourced. Furthermore that service delivery was falling; that emotional pressure was being placed on staff to complete additional work; and that the lowest paid were being disproportionately targeted. He asked the Chairman to confirm: the level of County Council reserves; the number of new homes to be built in the County in the next five years and the level of budget reduction in the next five years.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Hooke. He observed that his experience of the staff response to the Transformation programme did not accord with Councillor Hooke's comments. Staff were realistic about the changes that needed to be made, levels of sickness absence remained low, indicating good morale and the level of compulsory redundancies was very low and not expected to rise.

The Chief Executive introduced the report, highlighting that £96 million of the £103 million savings target had been achieved. He confirmed that in the context of a budget reduction, there had been no reduction in the social care workforce, and indeed the social care budget had risen. There were no plans to outsource County Council services as the IBC had been established to achieve similar efficiencies in-house. Many areas of the Council's business had been able to expand as a result of the opportunities presented by selling services to other Authorities. Where savings could be made through staff reductions, the principle of allowing people to leave voluntarily continued to be applied. This had created re-structuring opportunities and the opportunity to match capacity with the needs of the business. County Council staff were certainly working hard to help achieve all of this and demonstrating high morale, ingenuity and resilience in doing so.

Members highlighted the positive impact of the restructure on the Children's Services department, where many of the staff who remained had been given opportunities to develop, performance was high and there was a constant striving to be outstanding, which had been recognised by Ofsted. It was noted that the retention of capacity that was central to continued high performance had been possible as a result of becoming a provider of services to other Authorities.

Cabinet welcomed the report and the sound state of the Council's finances. The importance of prioritising Adult and Children's Services was recognised and the staff applauded for meeting the challenges that the Transformation programme had brought with it.

The recommendations within the report were proposed and agreed, with an additional resolution to record Cabinet's appreciation for the positive contribution of staff to the transformation process. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 2.

115. UPDATE ON MANAGING FLOOD RISK IN HAMPSHIRE

The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment (item 8 in the Minute Book) updating Cabinet on the progress being made by the County Council following the 2013/14 floods and seeking approval for a revised strategy for overall flood risk management and for drainage and flood defence improvements.

The report was introduced and the importance of the pathfinder scheme highlighted. The difficulty of tackling groundwater flooding was explained, as it was not recognised in the funding formula. A minor error in the figures in appendix 2 was brought to Cabinet's attention and a corrected version circulated.

The value of the County Council's co-ordinating role was highlighted and the benefits of communities being prepared to tackle flooding was explained. Progress and the support of officers in both Bursledon and Romsey following flooding was detailed. Members were keen to see schemes progressed as quickly as possible, through the frontloading of grant funding if necessary.

The recommendations within the report were proposed and agreed. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 3.

116. SHAPING HAMPSHIRE: Q2 PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Executive (item 9 in the Minute Book) providing an update on performance for "business as usual" activities, aligned to the priorities within the Shaping Hampshire plan for 2013-2017.

The report was introduced and it was explained that performance was strong and the direction of travel was good. The key performance highlights and risks to performance were drawn to Members' attention.

Cabinet welcomed the report, in particular success in meeting parental requests for school places, in expanding the provision of school meals to all Key Stage One pupils and in the use of technology to provide services such as Telecare. Members noted the scale of change through programmes such as workstyle and the importance of planning ahead to reap longer term rewards. Furthermore, success in schemes such as reducing carbon output was recognised both for its benefit to the environment as well as in saving the Council money.

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

117. SUPPORTING TROUBLED FAMILIES IN HAMPSHIRE PROGRAMME UPDATE AND PREPARATIONS FOR PHASE 2

The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Policy and Governance (item 10 in the Minute Book), providing Cabinet with an update on progress with the Supporting (Troubled) Families Programme in Hampshire.

The report was introduced and Cabinet reminded of the background and context to the Programme. The continuing success of achieving positive family outcomes was welcomed and Members acknowledged that although the financial support was relatively low, there was considerable scope for wider financial returns in reduced costs for other County Council departments and for partners such as Hampshire Constabulary.

The impact of the Programme on the wider community was questioned and it was confirmed that this factor would be part of an independent study by Portsmouth University to measure impact.

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

118. PUBLIC HEALTH PRIORITIES FOR HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – A LOCAL AUTHORITY THAT CONSIDERS THE HEALTH OF ITS RESIDENTS IN ITS DECISION MAKING

The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Public Health (item 11 in the Minute Book) regarding the integration and future direction of travel of Public Health within the County Council.

In introducing the report, the respective strands of Public Health strategy were identified and the process of integrating the service into the County Council with respect to matters such as procurement was detailed. The value of having a joined up approach between County Council departments as well as in the work undertaken with partners, such as Police and Fire was explained and welcomed. Members were also pleased to note the promotion of dental hygiene in the County and the work underway with schools and children's centres.

Cabinet were given details of action being taken with regard to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. It was noted that the response was being co-ordinated by Public Health England, following national guidance and that exercises had taken place at a local level.

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