

AT A MEETING of the ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION SELECT COMMITTEE of the COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle, Winchester on Tuesday, 12 January 2010.

PRESENT

Chairman:
p Councillor Sharyn Wheale

Vice-Chairman:
p Councillor Geoff Hockley

Councillors:

p Ian Beagley	p Rupert Kyrle
p Adam Carew	p Steve Rippon-Swaine
p Vaughan Clarke	a Elaine Still
p Mark Cooper	p Marilyn Tucker
a Edward Heron	a Alan Weeks

Also in attendance: Councillor Mel Kendal – Executive Member for Environment

20. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Members were mindful that, where they believed they had a personal or personal prejudicial interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting, they should normally at the time of the debate declare their interest, and having regard to the circumstances described in paragraphs 9, 10, 11 and 12 of the County Council's Code of Conduct, consider 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.

There were no declarations of interest.

21. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Committee held on 6 October 2009 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Arising thereon:

Agenda Format

The Committee agreed at the last meeting that future Committee agenda items should be split between matters for information and matters for consideration.

This will take effect in the new municipal year.

Local Transport Plan

A summary of these meetings has now been sent to all County Council Members.

Street Lighting PFI

The contract for this has now been signed with the preferred provider.

22. **CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Chairman reported the Executive Member for the Environment's intention to establish a Members' Workshop, in order to consider how a passenger transport strategy could underpin the emerging Local Transport Plan 3. A number of Members of the Environment & Transportation Select Committee will attend the workshop, and will update the Committee on its progress.

23. **REVENUE BUDGET 2010/11 – 2012/13**

The Director of the Environment presented to Members the revenue budget 2010/11 – 2012/13 (Item 4 in the Minute Book). Members heard:

(Take in presentation)

- That due to recent adverse weather, the department currently have an overspend of approximately £800,000. Additional to this is a smaller highways overspend, bringing the current overspend total to £1 million.
- That the Environment Department will achieve efficiencies of 11% between 2008/09 and 2010/11. All efficiencies made by the Environment Department will be centralised.
- That the Environment department budget is fluid and this enables the movement of funds to relieve pressure in priority areas, e.g. finance assigned to highways to help repair potholes on to the roads following adverse weather.
- That roughly £2m of the £7m spent on routine repairs to highways was spent on pothole repair.
- That £2.2m has been allocated to Winter Highway Maintenance from corporate general reserves, money which will be repaid by the Environment Department over four years.
- That each designated salting of the highways costs the Department £9,000.
- That greater value for money is achieved from road maintenance contracts in cold winters.

- That the street lighting Private Finance Initiative contract has now been signed. £0.9m has been allocated to the costs associated with new lighting developments. The energy contract is due for renewal in April 2011, which could be a pressure in the 2011/12 budget.
- That there is spare contingency money in the waste budget to help with the year on year rise of landfill costs.
- That the contingency fund was set up to ensure that the rising costs of landfill would not impact upon the funding of other services.
- That £25.5m has been spent on home to school transport for 2009/10. Of this, 47% was designated to special education, and 29% to secondary.

Following questions, Members heard:

- That there could not yet be an estimated cost of the recent adverse weather on the Environment Department, as more snow was forecast and reviews would have undertaken by each Hampshire County Council department.
- That all Hampshire County Council departments are experiencing pressures, and therefore the Environment Department cannot be guaranteed of further finance from central contingencies.
- That there is likely to be an underspend on Waste Management, as Hampshire's diversion from landfill is one of the lowest in the country, and overall waste volumes are decreasing.
- That the Leader of Hampshire County Council had made a recent announcement on the procurement of more salt/grit bins in residential areas.

RESOLVED:

The Select Committee agree with the recommendations as set out in paragraph 11 of the revenue budget report.

24. **CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2010/11 – 2012/13**

The Director of the Environment presented to Members the revenue budget 2010/11 – 2012/13 (Item 5 in the Minute Book). Members heard:

(Take in presentation)

- That Hampshire County Council may see a 50% reduction in Local Transport Plan allocations for 2011/12 - 2013/14.
- The details of allocations will be released in December 2010.
- That there may be a rationing of resources / reprioritisation in the face of tighter budgets.
- That the capital programme agreed for 2010/11 is protected, but after this time those schemes of lower

- priority may need to be placed on the reserve list.
- That spending on Highways maintenance will be protected between 2010/11 – 2011/12, but there may be impact on it's budget after this time.
- That the proposed Bus Rapid Transport capital programme is facing a second appeal case, which is delaying progress.
- That as Hampshire County Council is a floor authority, it may be protected from cuts more than those Local Authorities receiving larger grants.

Following questions, Members heard:

- That should the second appeal on the Bus Rapid Transport Scheme cause the project to exceed the timeframes outlined by the Department for Transport, other funds can be found for the project's completion.
- That £7.8m has been received in developer contributions. Currently there is not a publicly accessible list of all developments being undertaken through developed contributions, but details can be attained through the Environment Department.

It was formally recorded that Councillors Adam Carew, Mark Cooper and Rupert Kyrle abstained from agreeing the resolution.

RESOLUTION:

That the Select Committee agree with the recommendations as set out in paragraph 14 of the capital programme report.

25. **10:10 CAMPAIGN – NOTICE OF MOTION**

The Assistant Director of Property Services made a presentation to Members on the 10:10 campaign and the current approach to carbon reduction within Hampshire County Council (Item 6 in the Minute Book). Members heard:

(Take in presentation)

- That the 10:10 initiative is an opportunity for public and private businesses to sign-up to a voluntary agreement to reduce carbon emissions by 10% in 2010, although the minimum reduction required is 3% in one year to get accreditation.
- That the 10:10 agreement uses results from National Indicator 185 for Local Authorities in its calculations, but not all of the data within National Indicator 185 is relevant to the 10:10 initiative, as school and outsourced contract emissions are not included.
- That schools can sign up to the 10:10 agreement on an individual basis.
- That Property Services are leading on the reduction of carbon emissions by Hampshire County Council.

- That a 'Carbon Management Group' comprised of senior officers from all Departments regularly meets to discuss priorities and strategies. This group reports to the Sustainability Development Steering Group and Corporate Management Team.
- That Hampshire County Council's data return to Central Government on its carbon emissions in 2009 was 120,000 tonnes (data reported on National Indication 188). Gathering data on accurate carbon emissions can be difficult for a Local Authority the size of Hampshire.
- That 60% of Hampshire County Council's emissions are attributed to schools.
- That the Council has a recorded rising trend in carbon emissions, with an overall rise of 9% since 2000.
- That carbon reduction strategies for the Council will include those aimed at changing behaviours, as well as technical proposals to reduce carbon and asset reduction strategies (e.g. workstyles).
- That schools will be a high priority in carbon reduction strategies, as they are responsible for the highest proportion of emissions. Schools are currently spending more on energy than is available in their budgets, and one of the focuses of the carbon management plan will be to reduce this.
- That currently Hampshire County Council is investigating the feasibility of new initiatives to reduce carbon emissions.
- That the Hampshire County Council carbon management plan is expected to be published in March 2010.
- That once the management plan has been published, it may be possible to bid for grants related to carbon reduction schemes.
- That a reduction in carbon emissions for an Authority the size of Hampshire County Council will be challenging (given the rising trend over recent years), but it is committed to achieving a decreasing trend.

Following questions, Members heard:

- That Hampshire County Council could not reduce its carbon emissions by 3% in one year without major capital expenditure.
- That a more achievable outcome is that Hampshire County Council realise a 10% reduction in carbon emissions by 2020.
- That the 10:10 campaign would divert resources away from schools and other priorities, as any reduction in these areas would not be counted.
- An example of the finance and resources that would be needed to reduce carbon emissions to the level expected by the 10:10 campaign was given: in order to save 7000 tonnes of carbon (6% of the Council's total emissions), all lights in schools could be replaced with energy efficient fittings. This would cost in the region of

£30 million.

- That schools are being encouraged to sign up to the Eco Schools campaign, whose aims are more around total lifestyle changes and greener choices, rather than carbon reduction singularly.
- That the reduction in carbon emissions is a long term process (5 years+).

An amendment to the recommendation suggested by the Chairman was proposed by Councillor Adam Carew and seconded by Councillor Rupert Kyrle. The amendment read:

‘That the Environment & Transportation Select Committee recommend to Full Council that Hampshire County Council sign up to the 10:10 campaign with immediate effect.’

A recorded vote took place:

For:	Cllr Adam Carew, Cllr Mark Cooper, Cllr Rupert Kyrle
Against:	Cllr Ian Beagley, Cllr Geoff Hockley, Cllr Steve Rippon-Swaine, Cllr Marilyn Tucker, Cllr Sharyn Wheale
Abstained:	Councillor Vaughan Clarke

The amendment was not carried.

A recorded vote took place on the recommendation:

‘That the Environment & Transportation Select Committee recommends to Full Council that Hampshire County Council does not sign-up to the 10:10 campaign, based on the following:

- That as a decision to join the 10:10 campaign is not required until July 2010, the Committee feels it needs more information, forthcoming in the Carbon Management Plan (due to be published March 2010), before it can recommend to Full Council signing up to the 10:10 campaign.’

For:	Cllr Ian Beagley, Cllr Geoff Hockley, Cllr Steve Rippon-Swaine, Cllr Marilyn Tucker and Cllr Sharyn Wheale
Abstained:	Cllr Adam Carew, Cllr Vaughan Clarke, Cllr Mark Cooper, Cllr Rupert Kyrle

The resolution was carried.

26. **FLOODING - LIGHT TOUCH REVIEW**

(Take in report)

The Committee heard a brief summary of the report.

The Flooding Scrutiny Review report be forwarded to the Policy & Resources Select Committee for

comment.

RESOLVED:

That the Flooding Scrutiny Review report be agreed, and forwarded to the Policy & Resources Select Committee for comment.

27. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chief Executive presented the Committee's forthcoming work programme (Item 8 in the Minute Book).

(Take in work programme)

There was one item outstanding from the work programme, which was an information update on Display Energy Certificates. This was originally scheduled for the January 2010 meeting, but due to clashes with the budget, has been deferred to the April 2010 Agenda.

RESOLVED:

The work programme was agreed, subject to the addition of the recommendations made at the meeting.