

AT A MEETING of the EFFICIENCY PANEL of the HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle, Winchester on Monday 24 May 2010.

PRESENT:

Chairman:
p C. Davidovitz

p Dr. R.J.Ellis

p Felicity Hindson, MBE

22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

23 DECLARATIONS 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 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. The declaration to be made at the time of the relevant debate. No such declarations were made.

24 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2010 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

25 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Following the Cabinet meeting held earlier in the day and the Government's intention to make £6.bn savings in public sector spending, the Chairman announced the Panel would need to redouble its efforts to identify further efficiencies from 2012/13. In agreeing this, the Chairman asked that a report be brought to the next meeting on Hampshire Workstyle and in particular making more effective use of the County Council's estate and buildings.

26 PROGRESS AGAINST FINANCIAL TARGETS

The Panel considered and approved a report of the County Treasurer (Item 5 in the Minute Book) which summarised the progress made to date in achieving the savings targeted.

The County Treasurer reported that £8.6m of savings had been earmarked and "banked" in the corporate efficiency reserve during 2010/11. These

underwrote 57% of the target of £15m set to finance the budget gap in 2011/12. Further savings of £6.3m had been identified, producing a net surplus of £1.9m, which would provide some certainty towards balancing the 2011/12 budget and meeting some of the additional £15m required in 2012/13.

It was noted that further reports would be submitted to the Panel setting out details on how these savings would be achieved.

The Panel approved the recommendation within the report and the Decision Record is attached to these minutes as Appendix 1.

27 PROCUREMENT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME - UPDATE

The Panel considered a report of the Director of Property, Business and Regulatory Services (Item 6 in the Minute Book) on the procurement improvement programme and the arrangements made to contribute to the County Council's overall efficiency savings. The Director summarised the programme in which twelve projects had been identified, that were expected to deliver efficiency savings of approximately £10m over the life of the project.

The Panel noted the opportunities around the Public Notice Advertising project, in particular placing the Council's public notices on its website, and emphasised the need for consultations to take place around access issues for residents.

The Panel approved the recommendation within the report and the Decision Record is attached to these minutes as Appendix 2.

28 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That in relation to the following items the public be excluded from the meeting, 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 the items there would be disclosure to them of exempt information within Paragraphs 3 and 4 of Part 1 of 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 reports.

29 REDUCING WORKFORCE COSTS – UPDATE ON PROGRESS

The Panel considered and noted an exempt report of the Director of Human Resources (Item 8 in the Minute Book) on progress made in relation to workforce efficiencies (detail in exempt minute). The Decision Record is attached to these minutes as Appendix 3.

30 **EFFICIENCY PHASE 2**

The Panel received an exempt presentation on Phase 2 of the efficiency work from the Director of Property, Business and Regulatory Services (Item 9 on the agenda) (detail in exempt minute).