

AT A MEETING of the EFFICIENCY PANEL of the HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle, Winchester on Wednesday 21 July 2010.

PRESENT:

Chairman:
p C. Davidovitz

p Dr. R.J.Ellis
a Felicity Hindson, MBE

p T K Thornber, CBE

31 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Felicity Hindson who was engaged on other County Council business. In accordance with paragraph 2.1 of Part 3C of the Hampshire County Council Constitution, Councillor T K Thornber attended the meeting on behalf of Councillor Felicity Hindson.

32 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.

33 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 May 2010 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

34 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman asked that an update report be brought to a future meeting on the workstreams being explored by the officers' Efficiency Board.

35 2010/11 GOVERNMENT GRANT REDUCTIONS AND EMERGENCY BUDGET

The Panel considered and approved a report of the County Treasurer (Item 5 in the Minute Book) on government announcements affecting the County Council's short and medium-term financial planning. The County Treasurer confirmed that the County Council services were affected by government funding cuts of £8.4 million revenue and £5.5 million capital therefore

creating a lower baseline from which future reductions from 2011/12 will be assessed. The County Treasurer also highlighted the figures in the appendix to the report which summarised the planned efficiency savings to date and included the impact of additional savings from the planned pay freeze in 2010/11, 2011/12 and 2012/13 for staff earning over £21,000.

Responding to questions from the Panel, the County Treasurer advised that any investment required to develop income generation programmes would be funded from the invest to save reserve.

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

36 **SCOPE OF OFFICE ACCOMMODATION EFFICIENCY SAVINGS (HAMPSHIRE WORKSTYLE)**

The Panel considered a report of the Director of Property, Business and Regulatory Services (Item 6 in the Minute Book) on the identified efficiencies, progress to date and future development of Hampshire Workstyle across the county. Work was underway on exploring opportunities to accelerate the programme and consolidate and rationalise functions between departments and other partners. The Director explained that whilst asset delivery would be quick, the other financial benefits of workstyle would be realised over a longer period. During a presentation, the following points were emphasised:

- Havant Public Service Village would see the co-location of over 700 staff and focus on joining up activities of the County Council, District Council, Police and other voluntary and community organisations, with savings of approximately £70,000 plus IT costs. The council's capital contribution would be funded from receipts from disposals. The project would be delivered during the summer 2011.
- Eastleigh Service Hub would end the local fragmentation of County Council services in Hampshire and see annual revenue savings of approximately £200,000.
- Next steps in Winchester included reducing fragmentation of departments over the next 18 months with further utilisation of Elizabeth II Court North, West and East and developing opportunities for South, with expected further savings of approximately £500,000.
- Work on Ringwood Gateway was due to start in 2011 and would involve partnership working with New Forest District Council and Ringwood Town Council.

Hampshire Workstyle brought many opportunities for working more closely with partners including District and Borough Councils, Police, Fire and Rescue, Health and the Voluntary and Community sector.

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

37 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.

38 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.

39 REVENUE INCOME OPTIMISATION – IMPLEMENTATION

The Panel considered and approved an exempt report of the Director of Property, Business and Regulatory Services (Item 9 on the agenda) on implementation of the proposals of the revenue income optimisation project. The Decision Record is attached to these minutes as Appendix 4.