

AT A MEETING of the Cabinet of HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held at the Castle on 24 MARCH 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, C Carter, K Evans, A Gibson, J. Glen, P. Stallard, E. Still and S. Wheale

57. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Chapman.

58. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All Members who believe they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting must declare that interest and, having regard to the circumstances described in Part 3, Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter is discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore, all Members with a Non-Pecuniary Interest in a matter being considered at the meeting should consider whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5 Paragraph 2 of the Code, consider whether it is appropriate to leave the meeting while the matter is discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

59. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 February 2014 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

60. DEPUTATIONS

No deputation requests had been received.

61. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman noted the recent success of Gosport Borough Football Club and it

was agreed that he would write to the Club on behalf of the County Council to pass on their congratulations.

It was confirmed that the Vertex hub office accommodation in Basingstoke was to be formally opened as “Dame Mary Fagan House” on 24 April. The Chairman also noted that he had recently visited the newly opened hub office in Totton and invited other Cabinet Members to also view the facilities.

An update was provided on a recent meeting of the Hampshire Partnership and it was reported that the provision of Broadband had been discussed and that the County Council was determined to use all measures possible to expand coverage beyond the current 95 percent target. It was also noted that the Partnership had considered on going actions by a number of Partners to deal with the aftermath of recent flooding in the County.

62. THE FUTURE OF POLICING IN HAMPSHIRE

The Cabinet received a verbal update and presentation from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Hampshire and the Chief Constable of Hampshire Constabulary regarding the future of policing in the County.

The PCC described the importance of collaboration and co-operation, noting that the future of policing was directly connected to the wider criminal justice framework. The three key areas of: the role of the PCC, criminal justice reform and austerity were highlighted and described. In particular the Police and Crime Plan, the Estates Strategy, the Commissioning Strategy, the policing structure and the benefits of partnership working were detailed. The pending privatisation of the probation service was noted and the impact of austerity on the structure and delivery of policing in Hampshire was noted.

The Chief Constable delivered a presentation that demonstrated the relatively high performance and low cost of Hampshire Constabulary, noting the poor funding deal received from Central Government as a result of damping and the funding formula. The proposed restructure of the Force was detailed and it was confirmed that this was intended to both save money and strengthen the alignment with the priorities of the Police and Crime Plan. The nature of the restructure in the context of previous restructures was explained and the design features of the new structure outlined.

Cabinet Members welcomed the update and presentation and praised the strong relationship between the people of Hampshire and the Constabulary. It was confirmed that policing by consent was a high priority in Hampshire and effort was being made to ensure that the policing culture remained positive. Work between the Constabulary and Hampshire schools was questioned and it was explained that the new structure would improve consistency, however success was also dependent on the active participation of individual schools. A number of other points relating to the presentation were discussed, including the scale of reduction in Central Government funding, the expected means of reducing the size of the Force as part of the restructure and the opportunities for future recruitment to the Force.

Both the PCC and the Chief Constable were thanked and Cabinet were particularly pleased to note that the restructure would result in the appointment of a senior officer to be aligned with each local Authority in the area.

63. HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S RURAL DELIVERY STRATEGY

The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services and the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment on a Rural Delivery Strategy for Hampshire (Item 7 in the Minute Book).

The importance of a rural delivery strategy in a predominantly rural County was noted and it was confirmed that it would be sent to all District and Borough Councils for their input. Cabinet was supportive of the role of community and also raised the importance of the sustainability of energy supplies through periods of bad weather. An update was provided on the funding package that had recently been awarded for broadband and Members expressed their commitment to support the extension of broadband coverage wherever possible.

A revised set of recommendations, including a number of minor updates to those in the report were proposed and agreed. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 1.

64. HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE ACT 2012

The Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Executive (Item 8 in the Minute Book), regarding the revised role of the Health and Wellbeing Board, revised Scrutiny Arrangements and other Constitutional changes.

The content and context of the report was noted and the recommendations were proposed and agreed. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 2.

65. LGA PEER REVIEW

The Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Executive (Item 9 in the Minute Book), regarding the recent Peer Review of Hampshire County Council by the Local Government Association (LGA).

The Key findings of the LGA's review were highlighted and Cabinet noted the high regard which the Council was held in. The recommendations in the report were proposed and agreed. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 3.