

AT A MEETING of the CABINET of HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held at the Castle on 25 October 2010.

Chairman:
p Councillor T. K. Thornber, CBE

Councillors:

p C. Davidovitz	p K. Mans
p Dr. R. J. Ellis	p R. Perry
p Felicity Hindson, MBE	p Mrs. M. D. Snaith-Tempia
p M.J. Kendal	

Also present with the agreement of the Chairman: C. Carter, K.G. Chapman; P. Edgar; K. Evans; K. House; Mrs P. Mutton; Mrs J. Porter, Mrs M.J. Tucker, Mrs P.A. West and Mrs S. Wheale.

150. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

151. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

152. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 September 2010 were confirmed as a correct record.

153. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

154. 2010 SPENDING REVIEW

The Cabinet considered the report of the County Treasurer (Item 5 in the Minute Book) and a presentation on the early implications to the County Council of the Comprehensive Spending Review announcement of 20 October 2010. During the presentation, the County Treasurer advised that there would be an overall reduction to Local Authorities of 27% over the following four years, with the largest reductions occurring in 2011/12

and 2012/13. She also explained that the Government would provide funding as part of the grant settlement to enable a council tax freeze for 2011/12 only. The County Treasurer also ran through the proposed grants relating to Adult Services, Children's Services and Environment, although there would be no clarity on actual funding amounts until the grant settlement was finalised towards the end of November 2010. The presentation can be viewed on the County Council's website via this link - http://www3.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings/meetingssummary.htm?sta=0¤tpage=1&tab=1&date_ID=305

The Cabinet thanked the County Treasurer for providing a clear update on the spending review. During the discussion, the Cabinet noted with concern the Government's intention to not provide National Insurance breaks to small businesses in the South East area. The Cabinet welcomed the additional funding of £1bn nationally for social care in respect of public health which would enable the County Council to work with the NHS on joint provision and delivery of services and support to the voluntary sector.

The Cabinet adopted the recommendations set out in the report. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 1.

155. **EFFICIENCIES AND EXPENDITURE REDUCTIONS: TRANSFORMING THE COUNTY COUNCIL – REPORT NO. 3**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Executive (Item 6 in the Minute Book) on progress in relation to expenditure reductions and transforming the County Council in light of the spending reductions expected and subsequently announced on 20 October 2010.

The report outlined the programme of final proposals from the efficiency and expenditure reduction workstreams to be reported to Cabinet in November and December 2010. The Chief Executive emphasised the impact of the recruitment moratorium, which would see approximately 900 posts not recruited to over one year. Cabinet welcomed the associated savings and agreed that the financial policies for 2010/11 and 2011/12 be altered in respect of underspendings so that all underspending was retained by departments as a contribution to the 8% financial reductions.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor K House addressed the Cabinet regarding the recruitment moratorium. In response, the Chief Executive confirmed that although moratoria were random in nature, essential front line posts and other specialist roles continued to be recruited to, to ensure that crucial capacity was maintained. A large proportion of turnover occurred in generalist support and it was in this area that the largest savings would be made.

The Cabinet adopted the recommendations set out in the report subject to the additional resolution on financial policies regarding underspends. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 2.

156. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

The Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Executive (Item 7A in the Minute Book) providing an update on the numbers, nature and cost of handling Freedom of Information Act requests across the County Council. During the discussion it was noted that the number of requests had increased significantly over the last few years, and that very few requests were refused. Over 50% of requests were from the media, commercial and lobby interests and researchers. The Cabinet was concerned that local residents were bearing the cost, through council tax, of the County Council responding to requests from the media, particularly those which would be used for commercial gain, and therefore the Cabinet resolved to ask Government to consider allowing a charge to commercial organisations where the data supplied was of commercial value to the organisation.

The Cabinet adopted the recommendations set out in the report subject to the additional resolution above. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 3.

157. LOCAL TRANSPARENCY

The Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Executive (Item 7B in the Minute Book) on the proposed County Council response to the Government's proposals for increasing local transparency. The Chief Executive explained that the County Council processed 60,000 to 70,000 transactions each month, 20,000 of which were over £500. Data covering the previous six months would be published shortly, followed by publication on a monthly basis. There were some issues still to be resolved including the removal of data relating to payments to individuals such as carers or those in receipt of care package payments.

The Chief Executive also explained that Members' Register of Interests and attendance at County Council meetings would also be published shortly, and he thanked Members for their help in this matter. The Cabinet welcomed the progress on work towards greater local transparency and emphasised that attendance at County Council meetings accounted for approximately 10% of Members' workloads, and that competing demands often caused Members to be absent from County Council meetings.

The Cabinet adopted the recommendations set out in the report. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 4.

158. HAMPSHIRE ACTION TEAMS: SIX MONTH REVIEW

The Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Executive (Item 8 in the Minute Book) providing an update on the work of the Hampshire Action Teams including funded projects. It was noted that the projects funded to

date had helped many vulnerable, young and older people, and that much work had been undertaken in partnership with District Councils and other partners.

The Cabinet adopted the recommendation set out in the report. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 5.

159. CHANGES IN RESPONSIBILITY FOR EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS

The Cabinet considered and approved the report of the Chief Executive (Item 9 in the Minute Book) confirming changes to Executive functions, and it was noted that the reduction of the Cabinet from nine portfolio holders to eight had achieved a saving of £35,000 per annum.

The Cabinet adopted the recommendations set out in the report. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 6.

160. REVISION OF CONTRACT STANDING ORDERS

The Cabinet considered and approved the report of the Chief Executive (Item 10 in the Minute Book) concerning revisions to the Contract Standing Orders.

The Cabinet adopted the recommendations set out in the report. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 7.

161. PLANNING FOR FUTURE MINERALS AND WASTE DEVELOPMENT

Councillor Roy Perry declared a personal interest in this matter as he was the Chairman of the Viridor Tax Credits Scheme.

The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Environment (Item 11 in the Minute Book) proposing a new approach to the preparation of the development plan for future minerals and waste infrastructure in Hampshire. The Cabinet welcomed the proposed apportionment of 1.7 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) which was based on a formula involving 'truncated mean' of the previous 10 years sales figures for aggregate in Hampshire, as the basis for the minerals element of the plan.

The Cabinet also agreed that a Statement of Intention be prepared for approval by Council, a draft of which was attached as an appendix to the report. The following specific amendments were agreed;

- addition of an Overall Objective as follows "To meet the economic and social needs and to improve the environment of Hampshire for future generations", and
- in the penultimate paragraph of the first page, replace "without jeopardising" with "and improving".

Discussion also focussed on maximising aggregates from marine and recycled material rather than from land extraction, and it was agreed that this point would be strengthened. In respect of waste, the Cabinet agreed

that waste facilities should be situated close to local markets to avoid unnecessary travel, and also recognised that some waste residue would need to go to landfill and that this should be taken into account when considering sites for facilities to minimise associated transportation. Finally, Cabinet was mindful of the potential changes to planning legislation which could affect the programme for the minerals and waste plan for Hampshire.

The Cabinet adopted the recommendations set out in the report, subject to the above comments and agreed that a revised Statement of Intention be recommended to Council for approval subject to final amendments being agreed by the Leader of the Council and the Executive Member for Environment. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 8.

162. TREASURY MANAGEMENT MONITORING REPORT 2010/11 (LESS EXEMPT APPENDIX)

The Cabinet considered the report of the County Treasurer (Item 12 in the Minute Book) on the mid-year review of treasury management activities during 2010/11 and the proposed approach to developing the 2011/12 Treasury Strategy. In discussing the proposal, it was agreed that the Council should take the opportunity to restructure its debt, particularly following a recent announcement that the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) had increased its interest rates by 1%.

The Cabinet adopted the recommendations set out in the report and requested an update on progress in six months. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 9.

163. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That the public be excluded from the meeting during the following item of business, 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 that item there would be disclosure to them of exempt information within Paragraph 3 of Part 1 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 report

164. TREASURY MANAGEMENT MONITORING REPORT 2010/11 (EXEMPT APPENDIX)

The Cabinet considered and noted the exempt appendix to the Treasury Management Report 2010/11.