

AT A MEETING of the ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION SELECT COMMITTEE of the COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle, Winchester on Thursday, 12 May 2011.

PRESENT

Chairman:

p Councillor Sharyn Wheale

Vice-Chairman:

a Councillor Geoff Hockley

Councillors:

p Ian Beagley

a Rupert Kyrle

a Adam Carew

a Steve Rippon-Swaine

p Vaughan Clarke

a Elaine Still

p Mark Cooper

p Marilyn Tucker

p Edward Heron

p Alan Weeks

Councillor Mel Kendal, Executive Member for Environment and Transport, was also in attendance.

69. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Adam Carew, Geoff Hockley, Rupert Kyrle, Steve Rippon-Swaine and Elaine Still.

70. **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.

Councillor Edward Heron declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in Item 5, as he is the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for the Environment at New Forest District Council.

71. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Committee held on 26 January 2011 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

72. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman announced that both she and Councillor Carew were invited on a visit to some of the sites managed by Natural England at the beginning of March. The visit began at Edenbrook Country Park, where Natural England wished to demonstrate what biodiversity gains can be achieved from developer contributions, and ended at Isnage Farm, which provided a good example of what can be delivered by Natural England using an Environmental Stewardship Higher Level Scheme (HLS).

Members had received a full electronic write-up of this visit.

73. **PRELIMINARY FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT**

Cabinet took a decision on the 29 November 2010 to commend the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) to the Environment and Transportation Select Committee for consideration. The Chairman therefore asked for the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment to appear on the agenda in order for pre-decision scrutiny to take place.

District and borough councils in Hampshire had been invited to make comment on the document. Written responses had been received by both Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and Rushmoor Borough Council.

The Committee received a report and presentation from the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment on the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment. Members heard:

(Take in report and presentation)

- That Hampshire County Council, although only recently legislated as the Lead Local Flood Authority through the Flood and Water Management Act, has been active in taking a lead on flood risk management since the widespread groundwater flooding in 2000/01.
- That the County Council has received two tranches of funding from DEFRA for surface water management plans. The initial funding has helped to write plans for the Basingstoke and Deane Borough and Rushmoor Borough areas, and the second tranche is being used to create plans for Eastleigh Borough and areas of Central Hampshire.
- That Hampshire County Council will have the responsibility, as a Lead Local Flood Authority, to map all infrastructure that may have a mitigating effect on flood risk in the County. This will include all third party-owned features, e.g. garden walls. Once mapped and registered, the Lead Local Flood Authority will gain responsibility for the upkeep of these items.
- That the approval and enforcement of Sustainable

That the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy is brought before the Environment and Transportation Select Committee for pre-decision scrutiny, when it is available.

Drainage Systems (SuDS) will become a Lead Local Flood Authority responsibility in 2012, as will the eventual adoption and maintenance of them.

- That the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment document has been written in partnership with the Environment Agency and officers from the various flooding groups in the County.
- That over 700 sites in Hampshire have been added to a live database document on areas of local flood risk.

Following questions, Members heard:

- That the Environment Agency already hold a register of infrastructure that affects flood risk, but this needs to be updated and added to using local knowledge. There will need to be a robust system in place to ensure that new infrastructure is added to this list, and maintained.
- That infrastructure which can be causally linked to incidences of flooding will need to be registered and mapped separately, and will need to be taken into account in Local Flood Risk Assessments.
- That the report is in it's final stages, and is due to be submitted to the Environment Agency for approval on 22 June 2011.
- That stakeholders holding data on historic and possible future flooding events were invited to attend officer groups in order to both share information and highlight others that needed to be involved in the process.
- That a public engagement exercise had been underway at the same time as the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment was written, in order for local people to inform the County Council of local flood risk areas.
- That the level of detail in the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment has been kept deliberately top-level, in order to meet both Environment Agency and European Union requirements, but also to provide the initial overview of flood risk in Hampshire.
- That the Flood and Water Management Act has led to there being some ambiguity about the exercise of permissive powers by borough and district councils, and therefore clarity on this should be a focus of partnership working. Discussions are ongoing between Hampshire County Council and Chief Executive's at district and borough level on how to progress with this.
- That the County Council has lobbied central government on the reduction made to the total funding allocated to Hampshire following it's increase in responsibilities as a Local Lead Flood Authority.
- That a dedicated page will be set-up on HantsWeb detailing members of the public on the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment, and flooding issues generally. Links to these pages will be provided to other councils in Hampshire.
- That a standard template for the recording of flooding

incidents are due to be published imminently.

RESOLVED:

That:

- a) the Environment and Transportation Select Committee commends the Hampshire County Council Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment to the Executive Member for Environment and Transport, subject to the following amendments being made, and comments taken into consideration:
 - o That the technical amendments submitted by both Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and Rushmoor Borough Council to the Select Committee are taken into consideration in the final report.
 - o That the communications strategy set out in paragraph 3.9 includes a proposal to supply all borough and district councils in Hampshire with links to the PFRA document for display on their webpages.
 - o That a standard template for the recording of flooding incidents is published by Hampshire County Council, as the Lead Local Flood Authority, and distributed to all district and borough councils. That a data sharing protocol is put in place that allows the County Council to receive any data collected by borough and district councils through the standard templates.

- b) the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy is brought before the Environment and Transportation Select Committee for pre-decision scrutiny, when it is available.

74. **ECONOMY, TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT EFFICIENCIES UPDATE**

The Committee received a verbal update from the Director for Economy, Transport and Environment Department on efficiency savings. Members heard:

- That the January 2011 Department budget was agreed largely unchanged by the Executive Member for Environment and Transport, with some extra funding attributed to concessionary fares.
- That £6.7m of savings have been identified for 2011/12, £4.5m of which are corporate efficiency savings, and the remaining £2.2m workstreams within the Department.
- That senior management reductions would now bring in a saving of £1.25m, from £1.4m, owing to some delayed departures in staff for the orderly transition of work. This shortfall would be covered by an overachievement in savings from vacancy management.

- That contract savings with Amey, the highways term contractor, were on track to achieve £1m savings by October 2011, and £2m in 2012/13.
- That the Department's internal savings would be brought about by changes to the subsidised bus service (£1.15m), and reductions in staff below senior management level (c£1m). Both savings were on course to be met.

75. **REVIEW OF THE SUBSIDISED BUS SERVICE**

The Committee received a report and presentation from the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment on the consultation process for the review of the subsidised bus service. Members heard:

(Take in report and presentation)

- That the consultation is nearing its final stages, with the deadline for responses being 31 May 2011. The results of the consultation will then be used to feed into a Equalities Impact Assessment.
- That over 4,000 individuals and organisations have been engaged with, and 500 responses have been received so far.
- That Members have been heavily involved in the consultation process, through workshops and a specific Member's briefing.
- That the Department's communication team are currently working on a series of press releases in order to publicise the last few weeks of the bus subsidy consultation and how to get involved before the month-end deadline.

Following questions, Members heard:

- That hard-to-reach groups have been engaged through the organisations that represent them.
- That the consultation will not be the only medium that informs the final decision on bus subsidies – other sources, including software that maps census data, car ownership, areas not in close proximity to shopping facilities, etc, will also be used.
- That the final recommendations will take into account the results of the public consultation, as well as data on transport use.
- That bus services which are subsidised can begin and end in urban locations where there is high demand in commuter rush hours, and this can present a problem for those wishing to reach rural stops who are not able to gain a space on transport. However, it is these fare-paying commuters who can help keep the cost of bus subsidies low.
- That the Department will be publishing a rural toolkit, for Parish Councils and other organisations which will enable them to publish information on transport services available in the area.

That the Environment and Transportation Select Committee hear the results of the consultation and subject the final bus subsidy review proposals to pre-decision scrutiny in July.

- That a final decision on how the future of the subsidised bus service will look will be made at a special Executive Member for Environment and Transport decision day, which will take place on 27 July.

RESOLVED:

That the Environment and Transportation Select Committee hear the results of the consultation and subject the final bus subsidy review proposals to pre-decision scrutiny when it is available.

76. **'COORDINATION AND REGULATION OF ALL WORKS ON HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S HIGHWAYS' SCRUTINY REVIEW**

During 2010/11 the review of 'Coordination and Regulation of all Works on Hampshire County Council's Highways' was initiated by the Environment and Transportation Select Committee, which focused on issues relating to road works on the County's highways.

The review report has highlighted that although Hampshire County Council's current method of coordination had produced examples of good working, the written evidence submitted to the review had highlighted areas where improvements could be made.

The Chairman specifically thanked those Members and Officers who took part in the review. The final recommendations from the report were:

(Take in report)

- A That a study is undertaken on road closure orders, to ensure that a uniform approach is taken in delivering them across the County, and to assess the cost and effectiveness of bringing them in house.
- B That all District Councils are encouraged to liaise closely with the local County Council coordinator to provide details of all events that will affect the highway, and that such event information is added to the ELGIN website and Hampshire County Council email bulletin alongside the works details.
- C That a Hampshire County 'Code of Conduct' for Works is drawn up, building on best practice, which includes the need for further traffic and communication strategies to be put in place by statutory undertakers for significant schemes, where appropriate.
- D That an increased use of first time, permanent, like-for-like reinstatements by all statutory undertakers and

That the recommendations are forwarded to the Executive Member for Environment and Transport.

That the report is sent to key stakeholders for their information.

those contractors undertaking internally ordered works is promoted through the Code of Conduct. Repairs undertaken on behalf of the County Council should comply with the same 6 month permanent, like-for-like timescale that is currently a legal requirement for statutory undertaker works.

- E That Hampshire County Council ensures that agreements with its works contractors are tightened up, ensuring parity with statutory undertakers.
- F That the application of non-compliances to all Hampshire County Council work contractors is enforced, and future contracts with those undertaking County works take into account the same performance measures and penalties that are imposed on utility companies.
- G That the weekly road closure bulletin distributed by Hampshire County Council, and the monthly directory of works from the local highways office, is sent to a named contact(s) at each Borough and District Council in Hampshire. That the named contact(s) would then have the responsibility to disseminate this on to:
 - i. district and parish councillors;
 - ii. waste and recycling companies;
 - iii. private/taxi firms;
 - iv. etc.
- H That a communication channel to facilitate reinstatement defect reporting is put in place between District, Borough and Parish Councils and Hampshire County Council, in order to ensure that such instances are highlighted by those in the local community.
- I That the streetworks manager publishes a yearly report of works undertaken on the Hampshire County Council website, which includes details such as:
 - i. The number of works completed annually;
 - ii. The number of non-compliances recorded;
 - iii. The number of days saved through coordination, etc.
- J That a closer working relationship is forged with the corporate communications department, in order for successful co-ordination stories of road works to be communicated to the local media.

RESOLVED:

That:

- a) the 'Coordination and Regulation of all Works on Hampshire County Council's Highways' report and its

recommendations are agreed.

b) the recommendations are forwarded to the Executive Member for Environment and Transport.

c) the report is sent to key stakeholders for their information.

77. **DISPLAY ENERGY CERTIFICATES**

The Committee received a report on Display Energy Certificates from the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services. Members heard:

(Take in report)

- That a total of 538 out of the approximately 5,000 buildings in use in Hampshire by the County Council are above the building area threshold for a Display Energy Certificate rating (1000 m²).
- That an improved level of data accuracy on energy usage in buildings that require a Display Energy Certificate would be available from Summer 2011, once smart meters have begun to accurately record consumption.
- That the report shows a positive reduction in the average 'score' for each building subject to a rating. This improvement could be due to an increase in carbon awareness and subsequent behaviour change, as well as a result of the 'workstyles' programme.
- That the current government has not yet made any decisions regarding proposals to reduce the building area threshold applicable for a Display Energy Certificate rating.

Following questions, Members heard:

- Hampshire County Council's Property Services have been successful in securing a continuing relationship with those county schools who are converting to Academy status. Those schools have agreed to buy into the Council's property services service level agreement, and as a result of this have agreed to pool resources in order to benefit from smart metering and boiler controls.
- That £2.7m for boiler controls and £1m for smart meters has been collectively funded by schools in Hampshire.
- That Display Energy Certificate ratings are calculated by the number of kilograms of carbon generated per m² of floor space per year. The resulting calculation is then matched against 'bands', rated A-G, of Display Energy Certificate.
- That the refurbished Elizabeth II Court building has been rated as a high 'B' from a previously estimated rating of 'E' demonstrating the significant improvement in energy performance.
- That schools in Hampshire have shown high levels of interest in smart metering and energy reduction, both in

That building ratings under the Display Energy Certificate scheme are monitored by the Chairman and scrutiny officer, and brought back before the Select Committee if any substantial changes in rating are evidenced.

terms of their own buildings, and as a topic used to educate children about carbon reduction and climate change.

- That it is difficult to measure how much energy and cost has been saved as a result of displaying ratings, but the certificates do raise awareness, which in turn aids behaviour change.
- That partnership working in relation to climate change and energy reduction with district and borough councils has been driven through the Hampshire Senate. Recent success has included the agreement to collaborate on installing insulation into domestic homes in the County.
- That an outline business case for the use of photovoltaic cells on Hampshire County Council corporate buildings has commenced following endorsement by the Climate Change Centre of Excellence Panel.

RESOLVED

That building ratings under the Display Energy Certificate scheme are monitored by the Chairman and scrutiny officer, and brought back before the Select Committee if any substantial changes in rating are evidenced.

78. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chief Executive presented the Committee's forthcoming work programme and the annual report (Item 10 in the Minute Book). Members heard:

(Take in work programme)

RESOLVED:

That the work programme and annual report is agreed.

Chairman, 20 July 2011