AT A MEETING of the POLICY AND RESOURCES SELECT COMMITTEE of the COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle Winchester on Thursday, 21 January 2010.

PRESENT

Chairman:
p Councillor Keith Chapman

Vice-Chairman
p Councillor Keith Evans

Councillors:

p Adrian Collett	p Elaine Still
p Brian Gurden	p Bruce Tennent
p Robin McIntosh	p Chris Thomas
p Anna McNair Scott	p Pat West
p Stephen Reid	p Sharyn Wheale

24. **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 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.

The following Members declared personal interests:

Councillors:
Keith Chapman – Item: Chairman's Communications – Vice President of the Association of Local Councils

25. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Committee held on 15 October 2009 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Arising thereon:

a. Minute No.13c

Members did not recall receiving the media protocol, so it was requested that this be re-circulated.

The Media Protocol be circulated to Members.

26. **CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

a. New Chairman

The Chairman referred to the fact this was his first meeting as Chairman of this committee.

b. Hampshire Scrutiny Network

The Chairman reported that an event had been held on 15th January 2010 involving Hampshire scrutiny Chairmen from the County Council and the Hampshire District and Borough Councils. Feedback from the event had been positive, and it had been agreed to continue to meet as a network, initially twice a year, to share information in relation to scrutiny.

c. Voluntary and Community Sector Grant Funded Infrastructure Bodies

The Chairman announced that he intended to invite representatives from the key VCS organisations that receive funding via the Executive Member for Policy & Resources Grants to present to future meetings of this committee. This would provide an opportunity for them to inform members about what they do, and therefore provide accountability for the funding they receive.

Members of the committee agreed with this proposal, and indicated a preference that the Hampshire Association of Local Councils be approached as a priority.

Arrangements be made for representatives from VCS organisations to present to future meetings of the committee. Hampshire Association of Local Councils requested for an early slot.

d. Councillor Call for Action

The Chairman updated Members on the CCfA, reporting that following consideration of the draft protocol by this committee at the July 2009 meeting, the protocol had since been approved by Cabinet at their October 2009 meeting, with no material changes.

e. Winter Resilience Review

The Chairman alerted Members to the fact that a late report going to Cabinet on Monday 25 January 2010 had recently been published regarding Winter Maintenance Arrangements. The report contained a recommendation that Cabinet extend 'an invitation to the Policy and Resources Select Committee to lead and coordinate a strategic review of the County Council's winter resilience.' It was agreed that the Vice Chairman of the committee, Cllr Keith Evans, would attend the Cabinet meeting to put forward the committee's views on this. It was agreed to consider the implications of this request under the work programme item later on the agenda.

27. POLICY AND RESOURCES REVENUE BUDGET 2010/11 , 2011/12 AND 2012/13

The County Treasurer gave a presentation on the revised budget for 2009/10, detailed proposals for the 2010/11 budget and provisional budgets for 2011/12 and 2012/13 (see Item 4 in the Minute Book). The report covered proposals for redeployment of resources, efficiency improvements, the annual review of income and charges and the workforce implications of the proposed budget.

Members discussed the budget proposals. It was noted that the departmental budgets are derived from the budget strategy, which is agreed by Cabinet in December. It was requested that consideration be given to this committee having an opportunity to consider the budget strategy before it is approved, in future.

Consideration of the Budget Strategy be added as a potential item to the work programme.

RESOLVED:

The committee recommends that the Executive Member for Policy & Resources approve for submission to the Leader and Cabinet:

- The revised budget for 2009/10 totalling £70.7 million (as set out in appendices 1 and 2)
- The base budget for 2010/11 totalling £69.9 million (as set out in Appendix 3)
- The proposals for redeployment of resources totalling £1.0 million in 2010/11 (as set out in Appendix 4)
- The proposals for efficiency improvements totalling £3.2 million (1.7% of the proposed budget) in 2010/11 (as set out in Appendix 5)
- The annual review of income and charges (as set out in paragraphs 7.1 – 7.3)
- The summarised trading accounts of business units (as set out in Appendix 6)
- The detailed budget for 2010/11 (as set out in Appendices 7 and 8)
- The workforce implications of the proposed budget for 2010/11 (as set out in Appendix 9)
- The provisional budget for 2011/12 of £69.8 million and for 2012/13 of £70.6 million (as set out in Appendix 10).

However the committee wishes to advise the Executive Member for Policy & Resources to consider the provisional budgets for 2011/12 and 2012/13 with caution, as it is possible the government allocations in future may reduce to lower than the current assumptions used to put together the provisional budget. In addition, Interest rates could rise above the current assumptions driven by higher inflation.

28. **POLICY AND RESOURCES CAPITAL PROGRAMME FOR 2010/11 TO 2012/13**

The County Treasurer gave a presentation regarding the proposed capital programme for 2010/11 to 2012/13 (see Item 5 in the Minute Book). The report included proposals to fund schemes including office accommodation, economic development, coastal conservation and capital repairs. The report also referred to the proposed Havant Public Service Village, which is funded via contributions from the governments co-location fund, the County Council and Havant Borough Council. It was indicated that the County Council's contribution would be funded by supported borrowing.

Members enquired regarding how cash flow is calculated. It was indicated that a report is taken to Cabinet on this, which could be shared with this committee. Members also enquired regarding the County Council's current policy with regard to landholdings, referring to the fact that the County is currently benefiting from prudent decisions taken 20 to 30 years ago in relation to land. It was indicated that this enquiry was best followed up with the head of the Property Business and Regulatory Services Department.

That reports on cash flow and landholdings policy be considered as potential future items for the work programme.

RESOLVED:

That the committee recommends the Executive Member for Policy and Resources approve for submission to the Leader and Cabinet the capital programme for 2010/11 to 2012/13 as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

However the committee wishes to advise the Executive Member for Policy & Resources to consider the provisional budgets for 2011/12 and 2012/13 with caution, as it is possible the government allocations in future may reduce to lower than the current assumptions used to put together the provisional budget. In addition, Interest rates could rise above the current assumptions driven by higher inflation.

29. **PROCESSES IN PLACE TO ENSURE BUSINESS CONTINUITY IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY**

The County Emergency Planning Officer presented a report (see Item 6 in the Minute Book) regarding the County Council's Business Continuity Management programme. The report covered an update on the progress the County Council has made in implementing and maintaining the Business Continuity Management System (BCMS).

It was noted that the most critical services considered priority 1 or 2 have identified their resource needs and their reliance on I.T. and have service recovery plans in place. This means that the County Council has, and continues to prepare so far as is reasonably practicable, to continue to provide critical activities and an emergency response during any emergency or disruptive event.

It was acknowledged that priority 3 services are less likely to have robust plans in place, for example ensuring key documents are available in hard copy as well as electronically. It was indicated that a spreadsheet has been compiled of services by risk, and it is planned to work through these services in order of risk, to ensure where appropriate they have business continuity plans in place. Members requested that an update be provided in future regarding the progress being made against this list.

An update on business continuity management be added to the future work programme.

It was noted that partnership working had been strengthened as a result of business continuity planning, and the activation of some plans due to the recent winter weather, as different departments and agencies became more aware of their interdependencies.

RESOLVED:

That:

a. the report be received and noted and the officer thanked for their time.
b. That the committee wishes to express their thanks to the Gold Team for their efforts in managing services during the recent winter weather.

30. WORK PROGRAMME

The Chief Executive presented the Committee's work programme (Item 7 in the Minute Book). Members considered the potential request from Cabinet that this committee undertake a review of Winter Resilience, and agreed to add this review to their work programme. It was noted that this review had a potentially broad scope, and that it was therefore important that all departments were supportive of the review in relation to providing appropriate information in a timely manner. A Review Group was allocated as follows:

- Cllr Keith Chapman
- Cllr Keith Evans
- Cllr Sharyn Wheale
- Cllr Pat West
- Cllr Bruce Tennent
- Another Liberal Democrat Member (one of the Liberal Democrat Members on the committee had to leave before this item was considered, and those remaining wished to confer with him regarding the second representative they would put forward)

It was agreed that this group meet soon in order to scope the review. It was also agreed that the scope would be circulated by email for approval, in order that the review not be unduly delayed. It was considered important that the review be completed in time to enable any recommendations to be implemented before next winter.

A time be arranged for the review group to meet to consider the scope of the winter resilience review, should the recommendation be endorsed by Cabinet on 25 January.

It was acknowledged that the committee had been due to take up an in-depth review of flooding this year, following the light touch review of this subject undertaken by the Environment & Transportation Select Committee at the end of 2009. The Chairman of the Environment & Transportation Select Committee expressed concern over the possibility that this review would be postponed if the winter resilience review were to take priority. Members agreed the flooding issue was also important, and that if resources allowed they would wish to do both reviews. The Chairman indicated that members needed to consider the capacity available to them in the form of officer support when considering their work programme. It was agreed to consider the report on flooding by the Environment & Transportation Select Committee at the next meeting of this committee, and re-visit the situation at that time.

The flooding light touch review report be considered at the next meeting of this committee.

In relation to topics for future consideration by the committee, members indicated an interest in receiving a report from Economic Development in relation to Rural Broadband, and the possibility of development of a local television service.

Rural Broadband and Local Television Services be added to the work programme as potential future topics.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee's Work Programme be approved subject to the issues raised at this meeting.