

AT A MEETING of the CABINET of HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held at the Castle on 27 February 2012.

Chairman:
p Councillor T. K. Thornber, CBE

Councillors:

p	K. Chapman	p	M.J. Kendal
p	C. Davidovitz	p	K. Mans
a	Dr. R. J. Ellis	p	R. Perry
p	Felicity Hindson, MBE (part)	p	S. Reid

Also present with the agreement of the Chairman: P. Edgar, C. Leversha, P Mutton, M. Tucker and P. West.

319. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ellis.

320. 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.

321. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2012 were confirmed as a correct record.

322. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

323. ENERGY STRATEGY

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment and the Director of Culture, Communities and Business (Item 5 in the Minute Book) proposing an interim Energy Strategy approach. The Director explained that during the period of the proposed interim strategy, a series of pilots and feasibility studies would be undertaken to inform and enable a longer term Strategy and Action Plan to be developed. This may include exploring possible partnership arrangements and different financial models to realise community and economic benefits as well as potential income generation.

Whilst the Cabinet welcomed the development of an Energy Strategy, some concern was expressed at the short term nature of an interim Strategy and the Director was asked to progress the longer term Strategy as soon as possible to ensure the County Council had a robust forward plan in place, particularly in regard to the sustainability of it's economic, climatic, energy and social policies over the medium to long term.

The Cabinet also discussed the various opportunities for energy supply, including solar, wind, wave, tidal, shale and nuclear power, and asked the Director to provide a briefing on the associated benefits, risks and challenges.

The Cabinet adopted the recommendations set out in the report, subject to the additions set out in bold type below;

RESOLVED:

- a) That the interim Energy Strategy approach be approved.
- b) That the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment and the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services be requested to implement this Strategy approach, through a programme of pilot projects and feasibility studies, **in consultation with the Executive Member for Environment and Transport, and that a working party be established to lead this.**
- c) That detailed business cases be prepared for schemes and be considered by Cabinet in due course.
- d) **That the Chief Executive conduct a review of the medium and long term sustainability of the County Council's economic, climatic, energy and social policies.**

The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 1.

324. **JOINT WORKING IN HAMPSHIRE: INTERIM UPDATE PROGRESS REPORT**

The Cabinet received a report of the Chief Executive and County Treasurer (Item 6 in the Minute Book) providing a progress update on the exploration of opportunities for joint support services between Hampshire Constabulary, Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service and Hampshire County Council.

The Cabinet welcomed the update which showed clear opportunities for joint working across the three organisations. It was noted that details of potential costs of change would be reported to Cabinet at a future meeting

The Cabinet noted the direction of travel and the progress to date. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 2.

325. OPEN FOR BUSINESS: QUARTER THREE PERFORMANCE UPDATE

The Cabinet received a report of the Chief Executive (Item 7 in the Minute Book) providing a summary of performance against the Open for Business Plan.

The Cabinet was encouraged by the excellent performance in many areas of the Council's work and overall the achievements were very positive. However, there were two key areas in need of improvement, which related to the educational attainment of children in care and the number of placement moves experienced by children in care. Both of these issues are subject to close monitoring, supported by improvement plans.

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

326. THIRD QUARTER BUDGET MONITORING 2011/12

The Cabinet received a report of the County Treasurer (Item 8 in the Minute Book) which reviewed the budget position at the end of the third quarter of 2011/12. It was noted that the majority of underspends were part of a planned approach and would be ring-fenced and carried forward in line with the new policy, to meet the costs of change in support of delivering the budget reduction programme.

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