

AT A MEETING of the CABINET of HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held at the Castle on 29 October 2012.

Chairman:
p Councillor T. K. Thornber, CBE

Councillors:

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

Also present with the agreement of the Chairman: Councillors R. Bolton, G. Burgess, C. Carter, P. Edgar, K. Evans, L. Fairhurst, C. Leversha and M. Tucker.

377. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

378. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter considered at the meeting they must declare that interest at the time of the relevant debate and, having regard to the circumstances described in Part 3, Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Non-Pecuniary interest in a matter being considered at the meeting they considered whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 2 of the Code, considered whether it was appropriate to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

379. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2012 were confirmed as a correct record.

380. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

At the invitation of the Chairman, and following recent media interest in the care of vulnerable people, the Executive Member for Adult Social Care addressed the Cabinet and confirmed that all those residents at Winterbourne View were placed there by the NHS. Adult Services did not place vulnerable adults in this type of establishment. However, these placements were followed carefully and when safeguarding issues were reported to the County Council they were followed up in detail.

381. ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER AND ANNUAL GOVERNANCE REPORT

The Cabinet received the Annual Audit letter and Annual Governance Report (Item 5 in the Minute Book) from the Audit Commission.

The District Auditor explained that the Governance report, as recently reported to the Audit Committee, was a very positive report covering many complex areas. She thanked County Council staff and Members for the welcome and cooperation received during Audit process. She explained that there had been no significant risks, areas of concern or other potential negative issues to bring to Cabinet's attention, and confirmed that the County Council had financial resilience for the foreseeable future.

At the invitation of the Chairman, the Chairman of the Audit Committee addressed Cabinet and on behalf of the Committee commented that the reports provided a solid endorsement of how the County Council operates in respect of its financial policies, procedures and controls, value for money and it's management of the Hampshire Pension Fund.

The Cabinet thanked the District Auditor for a truly independent review which showed how the County Council was excellent value for money, and noted the content of the reports. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 1.

382. COST REDUCTION, EFFICIENCY AND BUSINESS STRATEGIES: MILESTONES AND NEXT STEPS

The Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Executive (Item 6 in the Minute Book) providing an update on the initiatives that began in the summer of 2010 and formed the bulk of the Cost Reduction, Efficiency and Change Programme. The Chief Executive briefed the Cabinet on recent accommodation activity which included the sale of Mottisfont Court to Hampshire Constabulary, and plans to reorganise occupation within the Castle complex to maximise the occupation of Elizabeth II Court, following the departure of 300-400 staff members from that building as part of the moratorium on recruitment and voluntary redundancy.

The Cabinet welcomed the report and congratulated staff on achieving almost £100m savings over the past two years, which would provide some stability over the following two years.

The Cabinet adopted the recommendations set out in the report. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 2.

383. SOLENT ENTERPRISE ZONE

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment (Item 7 in the Minute Book) on the proposed arrangements for the County Council to act as the delivery partner for the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) in terms of the on-site works associated with the initial phase of the Solent Enterprise Zone and for the County Council to receive monies from the Growing Places Fund both for the off-site highway works and on-site works for the initial phase.

The Cabinet welcomed the report and the initiative shown and recognised it as a great vote of confidence from the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) of the County Council's ability to deliver this type of scheme on budget and on time. Also, the County Council had successfully engaged with partners in the past on the planning of the Deadalus site regeneration and redevelopment, and now the site was moving into the delivery phase it was intended to have a small project delivery board to engage partners in this changed role. The Enterprise Zone proposals were seen as a major step in the right direction for employment and infrastructure in the Gosport area.

The Cabinet also discussed the related areas of the future commercial use of the local airport, 'city deal' and other potential initiatives to help the whole economy of Hampshire, and address potential skills shortages and the approach of colleges to providing aeronautic and mercantile skills.

Related to the proposals, the Cabinet also resolved to ask officers to look at the possibility of the Ford site in Eastleigh as a potential Enterprise Zone and the Chairman agreed to write to the Government Business Secretary, Vince Cable, to ask for his consideration as a matter of importance.

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

384. LOCAL TRANSPORT BODIES

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment (Item 8 in the Minute Book) on the proposed response to the Department for Transport's consultation on a new system of major local transport schemes. The Director explained that informal guidance received from Government indicated that funding may be slightly higher than reported.

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

385. ENERGY STRATEGY

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment, Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services and Director of Corporate Resources (Item 9 in the Minute Book) on the proposed long term Energy Strategy designed to build on work completed thus far and develop internal expertise and capacity on energy issues.

Responding to questions around the lack of a coordinated national approach on energy over recent years, the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment explained that successive Government policies had not addressed the long term energy supply and infrastructure challenges. In this context the proposed Corporate Energy Strategy took a pragmatic approach, particularly to fulfil the County Council's community leadership

role, and provide a balanced approach which could embrace long term direction and respond to changes in national policy as they emerged.

The Cabinet discussed the proposed Strategy as well as related issues regarding home insulation, the potential greater use of waste to generate energy and the deployment of solar photovoltaic panels. The Cabinet approved the long term Corporate Energy Strategy appended to the report, subject to the words 'excluding wind farms' being added to the end of sentence 3(c) of paragraph 7, Aim and Objectives, in anticipation of a formal decision by the Executive Member for Policy and Resources later in the municipal year.

The Cabinet adopted the recommendations set out in the report, subject to the addition detailed above. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 5.

386. SUPPORTING TROUBLED FAMILIES PROGRAMME

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Policy and Governance (Item 10 in the Minute Book) on the proposed strategic delivery approach and associated funding arrangements. The Cabinet welcomed the programme which represented the best opportunity to transform the lives of families needing help and improve the way services were delivered to families. The Cabinet heard that 10,000 families were in receipt of services from the Children's Services department and that much of the work of the programme would target and redirect existing provision and offer practical help and support with a more coordinated approach. It was expected that the Programme would be engaging with a third of the cohort by the end of the first year, and with 80% by the end of year two.

Responding to questions, the Director explained that success factors included greater attendance of school non-attenders, less anti-social behaviour amongst those families, less crime created by those families, and better wellbeing in the communities where they were located, more working adults in work or taking skills advice/training, or volunteering.

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

387. TREASURY MANAGEMENT MONITORING REPORT 2012/13

The Cabinet considered and approved a report of the Director of Corporate Resources (Item 11 in the Minute Book) on the mid-year review of treasury management activities during 2012/13. The Cabinet adopted the recommendations set out in the report. The decision record is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 7.

388. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That the public be excluded from the meeting during the next item of business, as it was 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 outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information, for the reasons set out in the report.

389. TRANSFORMING THE COUNCIL 2012 – BUSINESS STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

This matter was deferred to a future meeting.