AT A MEETING of the ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION SELECT COMMITTEE of the COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle, Winchester on Tuesday, 22 January 2013.

PRESENT

Chairman:
p Councillor Sharyn Wheale

Vice-Chairman:
p Councillor Geoff Hockley

Councillors:

p Ian Beagley	a Rupert Kyrle
p Adam Carew	p Steve Rippon-Swaine
p Vaughan Clarke	p Elaine Still
p Mark Cooper	p Marilyn Tucker
p Edward Heron	a Alan Weeks

Also in attendance:
Councillor Mel Kendal, Executive Member for Environment and Transport.

135. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Rupert Kyrle and Alan Weeks.

136. **DECLARATION 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.

137. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Committee held on 6 November 2012 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by

the Chairman.

Arising thereon:

The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy was due to come before the 22 January meeting of the Committee, but this document has been delayed due to the Environment Agency requesting further information be incorporated in the Strategy on fluvial and coastal flood risk. This item would come before the Select Committee when this had been completed.

138. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman and Committee wished it to be noted that the actions of the Economy, Transport and Environment Department and their contractors had led to an outstanding response to the recent adverse weather experienced in the County.

139. **REVENUE BUDGET**
140. **CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

(Items 5. and 6. in the minute book were taken together.)

The Committee received a presentation from the Director of Corporate Resources and Director of Economy, Transport and Environment on the revenue budget 2013/14, and the capital programme 2013 through to 2016.

(Take in report and presentation)

Members received an overview of the County Council's finances for 2013/14, followed by an in-depth look at the Economy, Transport and Environment Department's budget. Members heard:

- That the Department will achieve the budgeted savings for 2012/13 in full, the majority of which would be delivered from decisions made in the 2011/12 financial year.
- That the planned savings for 2013/14 would total 2% of the Department's revenue budget, following the frontloading of efficiency savings in 2011/12 and 2012/13.
- That the £300k savings planned from Concessionary Fares administration would not impact on service delivery or alter the terms of the current scheme.
- That there would be no requirement for job cuts in the Department to make savings planned for 2013/14.
- That the capital programme funding for 2013/14 would be £9.3m higher than the planning total identified in last years budget, due to successful bidding for funding from external sources and additional Government support for Highway maintenance in 2013/4 and 2014/5.

Following questions, Members heard:

- That the £500k allocation for flood risk in the Capital Programme is the second half of a two year allocation from locally sourced capital which was approved in the 2012/3 budget. This funding will end in 2014/15, but it is hoped that grant bidding to the Environment Agency will be successful in securing future capital for improving flood defences in Hampshire.
- That the Safer Roads Partnership is now funded through driver contribution income collected by Hampshire Constabulary.
- That reductions to the Rural Bus funding will be offset by efficiencies and will not impact on service delivery or require additional bus service reductions in 2013/4.
- That re-prioritisation of highways maintenance budgets will enable additional resources to be targeted at "pothole repairs" following the expected increase in highway defects arising from the wet and freezing weather.
- That 'Operation Resilience' and improved operational efficiency in Amey workforce tasking and deployment has improved productivity and reduced repeat treatments on the worst sites which helps to support the borrowing costs for the additional investment in 'Operation Resilience'.
- That the Government has recognised the need to inject funding into local highways infrastructure following recent years of adverse weather, and has announced c£6m of funding for Hampshire over the next two years.
- That the Department is currently exploring the potential for securing European Union (EU) funding for infrastructure investment. Experience has taught the County Council that bids to the EU are more likely to succeed if they include an aspect of innovation; developing new approaches to issues rather than simple physical infrastructure projects.
- That claims against the Highway Authority have increased slightly, with a noticeable peak during periods of severe winter weather. In general terms footway claims for particular centres have also increased where there are issues around the use of particular surfacing materials on pedestrian walkways. Investigations are currently ongoing as to whether alternative materials should be introduced now to address this problem.
- The County Council is taking action to protect itself from energy price increases, including the deployment of more energy efficient street-lighting, and investigation of energy generation. The Department is also less affected by the rising cost of bitumen as prices for those commodities were agreed as part of long-term contracts. The Department will need to be prepared for increased cost when these contracts come to an end.
- That conversations were taking place with colleagues in

Property Services over shared arrangements for project work and procurement of additional professional support and top-up capacity requiring the use of consultancy services.

- That in preparation for Community Infrastructure Levies, the County has agreed with all District and Borough Councils 'District Transport Statements', which set out the transport objectives and delivery priorities for each area. A County infrastructure statement has also been agreed with partners including the NHS, Fire and Rescue and the Police. A Memorandum of Understanding relating to the operation of CIL and other infrastructure funding had been drafted and was in the process of being formally considered by District and Borough Councils.

The Committee wished their appreciation to be noted to the Department for meeting their savings proposals for the previous two years, and contributing to the County Council's overall savings programme.

A recorded vote took place on the recommendations as set out below.

For:	Cllr Ian Beagley, Cllr Edward Heron, Cllr Geoff Hockley, Cllr Elaine Still, Cllr Steve Rippon-Swaine, Cllr Marilyn Tucker and Cllr Sharyn Wheale
Abstained:	Cllr Adam Carew, Cllr Mark Cooper

RESOLVED:

That:

1. the Select Committee agreed with the recommendation as set out in paragraph 11 of the revenue budget report, and in paragraph 16 of the capital programme report.

2. the Select Committee receive an item on a future Agenda relating to the identification of efficiency savings for the 2015/16 financial year.

141. '**PARKING ON GRASS VERGES, FOOTPATHS AND PAVEMENTS' WORKING GROUP**

The Chairman provided a verbal update on the work of the 'Parking on Grass Verges, Footpaths and Pavements' working group. The Committee received a report from the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment on the revised policy relating to this topic.

(Take in report)

Members heard:

- That after reviewing the current policy on ‘parking on grass verges, footpaths and pavements’, the working group requested that the Economy, Transport and Environment Department streamline and update the policy, and investigate best practice solutions.
- That a request to partner local authorities showed that that parking on grass verges was not a problem experienced in isolation by Hampshire, and there was not one singular method of mitigating the effects of this issue. The working group highlighted a Buckinghamshire County Council document as best practice, and wished to use this as a basis for a streamlined Hampshire policy.
- The parking solutions explored by the working group included different types of traffic regulation orders and engineering solution examples. The group agreed that although the examples were generally successful, they were not sure that they had improved overall parking problems. It was agreed that the various solutions considered would form part of a guidance document to District and Borough Councils.
- That the revised policy has been included within the updated and simplified Hampshire Maintenance Management Plan (HMMP), a larger piece of review work which will contain seven key strands of policy relating to highways maintenance. These include:
    - Enforcement and Prosecution
    - Licensing and Consents
    - Highway Status
    - Routine and Reactive Maintenance
    - Structural Maintenance
    - New Infrastructure
    - Weather Emergencies

Following questions, Members heard:

- That complaints from local residents can relate to the visual impact and damage that parking on grass verges can cause. It was requested that the impact of ‘parking on grass verges’ on the street scene should be referred to in any policy statement or guidance documentation.
- That guidance documentation will include the steps to be taken if a camping vehicle is parked on a grass verge, footpath or pavement in a protected area of ecological interest.
- That the final HMMP document will include a statement noting that the policy has been reviewed by the Environment and Transportation Select Committee.

RESOLVED:

That:

1. Members agreed the draft new policy approach, incorporating the additional points on local amenity and camping on the highway, which were raised during the discussion in relation to verge parking considerations.
2. That the final Hampshire Maintenance Management Plan (HMMP) is pre-scrutinised by the Select Committee prior to a decision being taken by the Executive Member for Environment and Transport.
3. That Members request officers to develop guidance documents for staff to align with the revised policy approach once adopted by the Executive Member for Environment and Transport.

142. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chief Executive presented the Committee's forthcoming work programme (Item 8 in the Minute Book).

(Take in work programme)

RESOLVED:

That the work programme is agreed.

_____

Chairman, 2 April 2012