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AT A MEETING of the Cabinet of HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held at the Castle, Winchester on Tuesday 4 February 2025

Chairman: * Councillor Nick Adams-King

* Councillor Jan Warwick
* Councillor Roz Chadd
* Councillor Steve Forster
* Councillor Liz Fairhurst

* Councillor Russell Oppenheimer
* Councillor Kirsty North
* Councillor Lulu Bowerman
* Councillor Zoe Huggins

Also present with the agreement of the Chairman: Councillors Glen, Henderson, Mocatta and Latham

259. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were noted from Councillor Withers, Chairman of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (standing observer).

260. **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 Personal interest in a matter being considered at the meeting they considered whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 5 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.

261. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meetings held on 10 December 2024 and 10 January 2025 were reviewed and agreed.

262. **DEPUTATIONS**

There were no deputations.

263. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- **Update on Devolution and Potential Postponement of May Election:**
There were no new updates from the government. Preparations for local government reorganisation continue. The Chairman expressed gratitude to the various leaders and chief executives of both the district and borough councils and our unitary neighbours who had continued to work

well and positively in preparing for the proposals that need to be put forward later in the year

- **Adult Social Care Commission:** An independent commission into adult social care would begin work in April under Baroness Louise Casey. The commission's first phase, reporting in 2026, will identify the critical issues facing adult social care and set out recommendations for reform and improvement in the medium term. The second phase, reporting by 2028, will make longer-term recommendations for the transformation of adult social care. The Chairman emphasised the importance of this commission in addressing the rising costs and challenges faced by the council in providing adult social care
- **Household Support Fund:** The fund had been extended until 31 March 2025 providing additional support for low-income families and households. By 31 December 2024 almost three-quarters of Hampshire's £7.1 million fund had been distributed both through direct support and in partnership with other local organisations and district and borough councils. The Chairman highlighted the importance of this fund in providing essential support to those in need and expressed hope for future funding confirmations
- **Person-Centred Planning Approaches:** Over 200 staff had been trained in person-centred planning to support inclusive practices in schools. There were plans to train 20 post-16 providers, another 100 staff from education settings, and up to 30 coordinators of SEND provision over the first two terms of 2025. The Chairman praised the efforts of Hampshire Educational Psychology in adopting and sharing person-centred approaches to reduce demand for specialist settings
- **Bus Service Improvement Plan:** £13 million funding was available for 2025-26 to improve bus services across Hampshire. This included ensuring more frequent services on busier routes, more real-time information screens, improved bus shelters, and more accessible bus stops. The Chairman noted the importance of this funding in enhancing public transport and supporting sustainable travel options
- **Ukraine Scheme Update:** Ukrainian nationals could apply to extend their residency for a further 18 months. Hampshire had welcomed 3,745 guests under the Homes for Ukraine scheme, with 733 guests still living with 506 host households in the county. The Chairman expressed gratitude to the residents who had generously hosted Ukrainian families and highlighted the ongoing support provided by the council
- **Agricultural Property Relief:** The council had written to the Secretary of State requesting the proposed changes to agricultural property relief be stopped. The Chairman and other council leaders had signed the National Farmers Union petition on the issue and emphasised the importance of supporting local farmers and communities
- **Southern Water Issues:** A meeting had been held with Southern Water to address concerns about water outages affecting parts of Hampshire in December 2024. The Chairman emphasised the need for better planning, communications, and engagement with local communities and councils to address such issues effectively
- **South Central Strategic Defence Cluster:** Formation of a new regional partnership to attract investment and innovation in defence and security. The cluster involves collaboration between the Ministry of Defence, the Defence and Security Accelerator, the Armed Forces, businesses, further

and higher education institutions, and local authorities. The Chairman highlighted the potential benefits of this partnership in raising the profile of South Central England's capabilities in defence and security

264. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH 2024-2025

Cabinet received a report of the Director of Public Health providing the Annual Report of the Director of Public Health for 2024-25 focusing on 'Let's Make Smoking History'.

The report highlighted the importance of tobacco control and the impact of smoking on health, addiction, and the need for a collaborative approach to make smoking history. The increased investment from the government into smoking cessation services was highlighted and the importance of working with partners to achieve this goal.

Cabinet Members praised the report for its comprehensive data and case studies and inquired about the most important actions the council and its partners could take to make smoking history. The Director responded by emphasising the need for a whole-systems approach, including expanding smoking cessation services, supporting clients through adult services, challenging NHS colleagues to offer better support, and working with trading standards on underage sales of vapes. Cabinet members expressed concerns about the long-term effects of vaping among young people and asked what more could be done to address this trend. The Director acknowledged the challenges and highlighted the importance of legislation, supporting schools, and working with trading standards to address the issue. Cabinet Members thanked the Director for the report and noted the importance of tailored support for smoking cessation and its contribution to addressing health inequalities in Hampshire.

The recommendations in the report were considered and agreed. A decision record is attached to these minutes.

265. AUDIT COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Cabinet received a report of the Assistant Director Legal Services and Monitoring Officer, seeking endorsement of a revised Audit Committee Terms of Reference for recommendation on to County Council.

It was highlighted that the changes included proposing the appointment of two independent co-opted members and changes to promote the independence of the audit committee. The proposal included expanding the existing terms of reference and ensuring no member of the executive could be a member of the audit committee. Cabinet Members supported the changes, emphasising the importance of the audit committee's independence. Cabinet Members inquired about the ease of finding suitable candidates for the independent member positions. The Monitoring Officer responded that the independent remuneration panel had agreed on an allowance of £2,000 per annum, which should attract the right calibre of candidate.

The recommendations in the report were considered and agreed. A decision record is attached to these minutes.

266. REVIEW OF CONTRACT STANDING ORDERS

Cabinet received a report of the Assistant Director Legal Services and Monitoring Officer seeking Cabinet's endorsement to amend Contract Standing Orders for recommendation on to County Council.

It was noted that the proposed changes were to update contract standing orders in response to the Procurement Act 2023. The changes aimed to simplify procedures and introduce additional reporting requirements for transparency. Cabinet Members asked if the changes would make the procurement process quicker or more agile. Officers explained that the new legislation introduced more flexibility, which may streamline some processes, but also included additional transparency and reporting requirements.

The recommendations in the report were considered and agreed. A decision record is attached to these minutes.

267. REVISED CORPORATE COMPLAINTS POLICY

Cabinet received a report of the Director of People and Organisation seeking approval of a revised Corporate Complaints Policy and introducing a new unacceptable actions by customers policy.

It was reported that the new approach aimed to provide faster, more comprehensive and definitive responses to complaints, reducing unnecessary stages to complaints handling. It was noted that the proposals had been pre-scrutinised by the Hampshire 2050, Corporate Services and Resources Select Committee and the Chairman of the Select Committee confirmed the Committee were supportive of the proposals. Cabinet Members inquired about the benefits of removing the third stage of the complaints process. The Director explained that a trial of the new process in 2024 resulted in better outcomes for both the council and customers, with fewer interventions from the local government and social care ombudsman.

The recommendations in the report were considered and agreed. A decision record is attached to these minutes.

268. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

Cabinet received a report of the Director of Hampshire 2050 recommending an update to the Development Scheme for the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan.

It was reported that the update was based on a requirement from the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government communicated in December 2024. Cabinet Members asked how the plan would deal with the impact of planning reform and increased housing numbers. Officers explained that the plan included

flexibility to deal with peaks and troughs of demand and that a review would be conducted in early 2027 to assess its performance.

The recommendations in the report were considered and agreed. A decision record is attached to these minutes.

269. END OF NOVEMBER FINANCIAL UPDATE 2024/25

Cabinet received a report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Operations providing an update on the financial position for 2024/25.

It was highlighted that good progress had been made on implementing Savings Programme 2025 Phase 1 savings and closing down previous savings programmes. The predicted overspend had reduced from £15 million as previously reported to £6 million, including taking account of the in year impact of the Mutually Agreed Resignation Scheme. Cabinet Members inquired about the correlation between spend controls and the reduction in expenditure. The Director explained that an analysis of expenditure types showed reductions in areas targeted by spend controls, such as staffing costs, printing, and mileage claims.

The recommendations in the report were considered and agreed. A decision record is attached to these minutes.

270. SECTION 25 REPORT FROM THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Cabinet received a report of the Chief Financial Officer and Director of Corporate Operations providing the view of the Chief Financial Officer as to the robustness of the estimates included in the budget and the adequacy of the financial reserves.

It was highlighted that the Chief Financial Officer was recommending a council tax increase of 15% to trigger a referendum, due to the rejection of Exceptional Financial Support by the government. The report emphasised the need for a sustainable budget and the challenges faced in balancing the budget. Cabinet Members acknowledged the importance of financial stewardship and the need to plan ahead for a sustainable budget.

The Chief Financial Officer explained that additional funding was required due to increasing costs of social care and home to school transport outstripping the capped level by which Council Tax could be increased. The impact of the Council previously freezing council tax for five years was also highlighted, with Hampshire now charging the second lowest Council Tax of all County Councils in the Country.

The recommendations in the report were considered and agreed. A decision record is attached to these minutes.

271. REVENUE BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2025/26

Cabinet received a report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Operations regarding the proposed revenue budget and precept for 2025/26.

The Monitoring Officer highlighted that all Councillors were Council Tax payers and would normally declare an interest when considering the rate of Council Tax to set, however, a general dispensation from the Conduct Advisory Panel was in place to allow all Councillors to take part in debates and decisions regarding Council Tax.

The Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Operations summarised the report and highlighted a number of changes to the figures that had been received since publication, which resulted in a net increase of £3.2 million. It was noted that the budget proposals included an assumption that the savings in the report would be agreed. If those savings were not agreed, then any difference would need to be met from the budget bridging reserve.

Cabinet Members noted that there would be hard decisions to be made in the coming year in order to focus available funds on services for the most vulnerable. It was noted that in previous public consultations regarding the budget less than 20% of respondents supported an above 5% Council Tax rise.

The Chairman of the Cabinet proposed that the Cabinet not support raising Council Tax by more than the cap. He noted that the Council had a track record of finding savings and that the Independent Panel Report had identified further opportunities. There would be a focus on the Council's core purpose and Legal Minimum Service Levels going forwards. He noted that it was not sustainable to use reserves to fund the revenue budget in future.

RESOLVED:

Cabinet agrees to:

1. Note and take account of the Chief Financial Officer's Section 25 report on the Budget.
2. Approve the updated cash limits for directorates for 2025/26 as set out in Appendix 2 as updated by the changes outlined by the Chief Financial Officer.
3. Note the report from the Independent Panel who supported the Council's work on reviewing Legal Minimum Service Levels
4. Delegate authority to the Director of Corporate Operations, following consultation with the Leader and the Chief Executive to make changes to the budget following Cabinet to take account of new issues, changes to figures notified by District Councils or any late changes in the final Local Government Finance Settlement.

5. Approve for submission to County Council and subject to further consultation where necessary, the savings proposals in Appendix 7; after taking due regard of the Equality Impact Assessments in Appendix 8 and the Cumulative Equality Impact Assessment in Appendix 13.
6. Approve that the Chief Executive and Corporate Management Team can progress any Phase 3 Savings Proposals where these do not have a direct impact on services provided to the public.
7. Note that the Council's request to the Government for Exceptional Finance Support was not approved and for the reasons outlined in the meeting, Cabinet do not support triggering a referendum.

Recommend that the County Council approve:

- a. That County Council notes and takes account of the Chief Financial Officer's Section 25 report on the Budget when the Council determines the budget and precept for 2025/26.
- b. The Revised Budget for 2024/25 as set out in Appendix 1 to the main Budget Report.
- c. The Revenue Budgets for Services for 2025/26 as set out in Appendix 3 to the main Budget Report.
- d. The overall Revenue Budget for the County Council as set out in Appendix 5 to the report and as updated by the changes outlined by the Chief Financial Officer which now requires a draw from the Budget Bridging Reserve of £64.936m.
- e. The Savings proposals set out in Appendix 7, taking account of the Equality Impact Assessments detailed in Appendix 8 and the Cumulative Equality Impact Assessment in Appendix 13 and subject to any stage 2 consultations that may be required.
- f. The Reserves Strategy at Appendix 10 to the main Budget Report.
- g. The council tax requirement for the County Council for the year beginning 1 April 2025 of £876,369,719.30.
- h. The County Council's band D council tax for the year beginning 1 April 2025 is £1,609.83, an increase of 4.995%, of which 2% is specifically for adult social care.
- i. The County Council's council tax for the year beginning 1 April 2025 for properties in each tax band is:

	£
Band A	1,073.22
Band B	1,252.09
Band C	1,430.96
Band D	1,609.83

Band E	1,967.57
Band F	2,325.31
Band G	2,683.05
Band H	3,219.66

- j. Precepts be issued totalling £876,369,719.30 on the billing authorities in Hampshire, requiring the payment in such instalments and on such date set by them previously notified to the County Council, in proportion to the tax base of each billing authority's area as determined by them and set out in the table below.

Local Authority	Tax Base	Council Tax Precept (HCC share)
Basingstoke and Deane	70,025.33	112,728,876.99
East Hampshire	52,823.33	85,036,581.33
Eastleigh	49,576.31	79,809,431.13
Fareham	44,596.40	71,792,622.61
Gosport	27,086.50	43,604,660.30
Hart	43,072.16	69,338,855.33
Havant	43,147.40	69,459,978.94
New Forest	73,355.00	118,089,079.66
Rushmoor	33,410.57	53,785,337.90
Test Valley	52,407.00	84,366,360.81
Winchester	54,886.50	88,357,934.30

- k. The Capital & Investment Strategy for 2025/26 (and the remainder of 2024/25) as set out in Appendix 11 to the main Budget Report.
- l. The Treasury Management Strategy for 2025/26 (and the remainder of 2024/25) as set out in Appendix 12 to the main Budget Report.
- m. Authority is delegated to the Director of Corporate Operations to manage the County Council's investments and borrowing according to the Treasury Management Strategy Statement as appropriate.

272. **CAPITAL PROGRAMME FOR 2025/26 TO 2027/28**

Cabinet received a report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Operations regarding the proposed capital programme for 2025/26 and provisional programmes for the subsequent two financial years. It was highlighted that reporting of the Capital Budget would now be on an expenditure basis rather than a mixed starts and expenditure basis as it had been previously.

The recommendations in the report were considered and agreed. A decision record is attached to these minutes.

Chairman,

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HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Cabinet
Date:	4 February 2025
Title:	Director of Public Health Annual Report – Let’s Make Smoking History
Report From:	Director of Public Health

Contact name: Simon Bryant

Email: Simon.bryant@hants.gov.uk

1. The decision:

- 1.1. That Cabinet note the Annual Report of the Director of Public Health 2024-2025 – Let’s Make Smoking History.
- 1.2. That Cabinet endorse the ambition within the Annual Report which is to envision a future where tobacco use is no longer the norm across Hampshire and to work together to cultivate smokefree cultures, enhance quitting opportunities and work towards achieving the smokefree 2030 ambition of bringing down the Hampshire smoking prevalence to 5% and below.

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1. The 2012 Health and Care Act placed a statutory duty on upper tier Local Authorities to improve and protect the health of their residents. Directors of Public Health have a statutory duty to write an Annual Public Health Report to demonstrate the state of health within their communities. The focus of this year’s report is to make smoking history.
- 2.2. Tobacco is still one of the biggest risks to the public’s health that we face, and we know that over the course of the seven decades of smoking history, tobacco has claimed many lives. Hampshire is making great strides towards reducing smoking in our communities, however, there is still more to do.
- 2.3. In Hampshire, we support on average 3,500 people per year to quit smoking, through face-to-face programmes, telephone support and digital applications.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1. No other options were considered and rejected.

4. Conflicts of interest:

4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: None.

4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: None.

5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: N/A

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: N/A

7. Statement from the decision maker:

Approved by:	Date:
----- Councillor Nick Adams-King Chairman of Cabinet	4 February 2025

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Cabinet
Date:	4 February 2025
Title:	Audit Committee Terms of Reference
Report From:	Assistant Director – Legal Services and Monitoring Officer

Contact name: David Kelly

Email: David.kelly@hants.gov.uk

1. The decision:

That Cabinet:

- 1.1. Recommends the draft Audit Committee Terms of Reference set out in Annex 1 to the County Council for approval.
- 1.2. Supports the principle of appointing two co-opted independent members to the Audit Committee from May 2025 subject to an appropriate recruitment and selection process being undertaken by the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Operations in consultation with the Chairman of the Audit Committee.

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1. A review was undertaken of the Audit Committee's Terms of Reference based on the principles set out in the CIPFA Position Statement on Audit Committees (CIPFA Position Statement)¹ and the commitment in the County Council's Annual Governance Statement 2022- 2023 to review the Audit Committee's Terms of Reference. The review highlighted areas where CIPFA guidance indicated that the Audit Committee's Terms of Reference could be improved to ensure that they align with the areas recommended by CIPFA including the recruitment of two co-opted independent members to sit on the Audit Committee to add external perspective and expertise to the work of the Committee.
- 2.2. The revised Terms of Reference provide more detail on the role of the Audit Committee, while retaining the roles of the Audit Committee that are established at the County Council. The small number of areas where the revised Terms of Reference depart from the CIPFA guidance are explained.

¹ Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Position Statement: Audit Committees in Local Authorities and Police 2022

2.3. At its meeting on 24 May 2024, the Audit Committee agreed the proposed amendments to its Terms of Reference for recommendation to Cabinet for consideration and recommendation to the County Council for approval. In addition, with a small amendment made regarding consultation, the Committee voted to support the principle of appointing two co-opted independent members to the Audit Committee from May 2025 subject to an appropriate recruitment and selection process being undertaken by the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Operations in consultation with the Chairman of the Audit Committee.

2.4. In addition to those changes recommended by the Audit Committee, a few small amendments to the Audit Committee Terms of Reference were proposed in anticipation of the implementation of the Global Internal Audit Standards in the UK Public Sector in April 2025.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

3.1. Constituting the Audit Committee as an advisory committee and changing its size to eight members, in line with CIPFA's recommendations.

4. Conflicts of interest:

4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: none

4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: none

5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: none.

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.

7. Statement from the decision maker:

Approved by:

Date:

Councillor Nick Adams-King
Chairman of Cabinet

4 February 2025

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Cabinet
Date:	4 February 2025
Title:	Review of Contract Standing Orders
Report From:	Assistant Director – Legal Services and Monitoring Officer

Contact name: David Kelly

Email: David.kelly@hants.gov.uk

1. The decision:

1.1. That the Cabinet approves the revised Contract Standing Orders set out in Annex 2 for recommendation to the County Council for approval.

2. Reasons for the decision:

2.1. Following the Procurement Act 2023 (PA 2023) receiving Royal Assent, a review of the County Council's Contract Standing Orders has been undertaken in order to identify any changes required as a consequence of the new legislation.

2.2. The review also identified a small number of additional desirable changes to the Contract Standing Orders including to delete provision relating to procedures that are no longer relevant and to reflect current governance arrangements, and to delete provision for discretionary additional publication as, in practice, this has been considered not to be value for money.

2.3. At its meeting on 24th January 2025, the Audit Committee considered a report on the review of Contract Standing Orders and approved the revised Contract Standing Orders for recommendation to Cabinet for consideration and recommendation to the County Council for approval.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

3.1. Not amending Contract Standing Orders.

4. Conflicts of interest:

4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: TBC

4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: TBC

5. **Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel:** None.

- 6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: Not applicable.
- 7. Statement from the decision maker:

Approved by:	Date:
----- Councillor Nick Adams-King Chairman of Cabinet	4 February 2025

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Cabinet
Date:	4 February 2025
Title:	Revised Corporate Complaints Policy
Report From:	Director People and Organisation

Contact name: Jac Broughton, Director, People and Organisation

Email: jac.broughton@hants.gov.uk

1. The decision:

- 1.1. That Cabinet approve the new Corporate Complaints Policy (Appendix 1), which aligns HCC's complaints approach with the new Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Complaint Handling Code (2024).
- 1.2. That Cabinet note the Director of People and Organisation will be appointed as the suitably senior person to oversee its complaint handling performance as per the LGSCO Complaint Handling Code.
- 1.3. That Cabinet note that Cabinet will be assigned as the 'Member' with lead responsibility for complaints in governance arrangements as per the new LGSCO Complaint Handling Code.
- 1.4. That Cabinet note that an annual complaints performance and service improvement report will be submitted to Cabinet each autumn, in line with the new LGSCO Complaint Handling Code and the Performance Assurance Framework to be updated to reflect this change.
- 1.5. Approve the addition of the new annual complaints performance and service improvement report to the existing Performance Assurance Framework.
- 1.6. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive to approve any further revisions to the Performance Assurance Framework to ensure that it aligns with any new and relevant Government performance requirements.
- 1.7. Note the existing 3 Stage complaints process will be reduced to a 2 Stage complaints process, in line with the new LGSCO Complaint Handling Code and HCC's wider initiative to reduce repeated and unnecessary customer communications.
- 1.8. Note the implementation of a new Unacceptable Actions by Customers Policy, as agreed by the Employment in Hampshire County Council Committee in November 2024.

1.9. Note the next steps following approval of the policy, including the proposed Communications strategy.

2. Reasons for the decision:

2.1. To present to Cabinet a revised Corporate Complaints Policy, detailing the changes made since its revision, the accompanying new governance arrangements and reasons behind the changes to align with new ombudsman guidance.

2.2. To update Cabinet on the new Unacceptable Actions by Customers Policy, implemented in November 2024 after agreement by the Employment in Hampshire County Council Committee in November 2024.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

3.1. None.

4. Conflicts of interest:

4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: None.

4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: None.

5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: None.

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: Not applicable.

7. Statement from the decision maker:

Approved by:

Date:

**Chairman of Cabinet
Councillor Nick Adams-King**

4 February 2025

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Cabinet
Date:	4 February 2025
Title:	Local Development Scheme
Report From:	Director of Hampshire 2050

Contact name: Laura McCulloch

Email: laura.mcculloch@hants.gov.uk

1. The decision:

- 1.1. That Cabinet recommends that the County Council resolves that the revised Hampshire Minerals and Waste Development Scheme, which sets out the timetable and programme for the adoption, monitoring and subsequent review of the updated Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan, comes into effect from February 2025.

2. Reason for the decision:

- 2.1. The decision is being taken in order to comply with Government's request for all local planning authorities to publish an updated Local Development Scheme by 6 March 2025.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1. The option not to update the development scheme was considered, but rejected in light of the instruction from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
- 3.2. The timetable for review has also been set by Government and therefore there were no further options for an alternative timetable.

4. Conflicts of interest:

- 4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: None.
- 4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: None.

5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: none.

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by:

Date:

4 February 2025

**Chairman of Cabinet
Councillor Nick Adams-King**

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Cabinet
Date:	4 February 2025
Title:	End of November Financial Update 2024/25
Report From:	Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Operations

Contact name: Rob Carr

Email: rob.carr@hants.gov.uk

1. The decision:

1.1. That Cabinet note:

- a) The progress towards delivery of SP25 savings set out in Section D.
- b) The 2024/25 directorate forecast net outturn position set out in Section E, which is a forecast overspend of £6.9m.
- c) The positions on capital spend and financing set out in Section F.
- d) The quarterly reporting against the Prudential Indicators in Appendix 1.
- e) The revised budget for 2024/25 set out in Appendix 2 which is also contained in the Budget Report for 2025/26 presented elsewhere on the agenda.

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1. To update Cabinet on the financial position at the end of November 2024 including progress against SP25 savings and forecast variance against the revenue budget for service directorates and non-service budgets and the reasons for the variances.
- 2.2. The report also provides updates on the capital spend and financing, the quarterly report against Prudential Indicators and the presents the revised budget for 2024/25.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1. Not to report on the financial position at the end of November 2024, progress against SP25 savings, capital spend and financing, quarterly report against Prudential Indicators nor present a revised 2024/25 budget.

4. Conflicts of interest:

4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: None

4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: None

5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: Not applicable

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: Not applicable

7. Statement from the decision maker:

Approved by:

Date:

**Councillor Nick Adams-King
Chairman of Cabinet**

4 February 2024

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Cabinet
Date:	4 February 2025
Title:	Section 25 Report from the Chief Financial Officer
Report From:	Chief Financial Officer and Director of Corporate Operations

Contact name: Rob Carr

Email: rob.carr@hants.gov.uk

a) The decision:

1.1. That Cabinet resolved to:

- a) Note the content of the Section 25 Report and ensure that it is taken into account in setting the Budget and Council Tax for 2025/26.
- b) Note that the Chief Financial Officer has concluded that a robust, Council wide process has been properly followed in preparing the detailed budget estimates.
- c) Note that the Chief Financial Officer's recommendations below are based on the assumption that the Council implements the additional £45.3m SP25 phase 2 savings recommended in the main budget report considered elsewhere on the County Council agenda, and seeks to maximise the prospective Phase 3 savings which are being progressed.
- d) Note that the Chief Financial Officer has concluded that the County Council's financial reserves are adequate in the overall context of the budget and risks for 2025/26 ONLY at a council tax increase of 4.99%.
- e) Note that the Chief Financial Officer has concluded that the County Council's financial reserves are **not** adequate in the overall context of the financial position beyond the 2025/26 financial year at a council tax increase of 4.99% next year.
- f) Note that the Chief Financial Officer's view is that if council tax is only increased by 4.99%, it increases the likelihood that the Council would issue a Section 114 notice (and/or trigger a further request for EFS) in advance of the 2026/27 financial year.
- g) Note that the Chief Financial Officer has concluded that the County Council's financial reserves **would be** adequate in the overall context of the financial position beyond the 2025/26 financial year at a council tax increase of 14.99% next year.
- h) Note the request that has been made to Government for Exceptional Financial Support in the form of a council tax increase above the referendum level.

- i) Note the significant impact that the request for EFS would have on the County Council's future finances as set out in paras 41 to 43.
- j) Note the Chief Financial Officer's advice that in the event of the request for EFS is not agreed by Government, that County Council should agree a 15.0% increase in council tax for 2025/26 which will trigger a referendum.
- k) Note the Chief Financial Officer's advice that even if Cabinet do not recommend that County Council increase council tax by 15.0% and trigger a referendum, that County Council should still consider this opinion as part of the Budget Setting Meeting.

1.2 That Cabinet recommends to County Council that:

- a) The Chief Financial Officer's report under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 be taken into account when the Council determines the budget and precept for 2025/26.

2. Reasons for the decision:

2.1. Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 requires the Chief Financial Officer (the Director of Corporate Operations) to report to the County Council when setting its council tax on:

- the robustness of the estimates included in the budget, and
- the adequacy of the financial reserves in the budget.

2.2. The County Council is required to have regard to this report in approving the budget and council tax. It is appropriate for this report to go first to Cabinet and then be made available to the County Council in making its final decision.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

3.1. No other options could be considered, since Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 requires the Chief Financial Officer (the Director of Corporate Operations) to report to on the robustness of the estimates included in the budget and the adequacy of the financial reserves in the budget to ensure that all members consider the professional advice provided when making its final budget decision.

4. Conflicts of interest:

4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: None.

4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: None

5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: None

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: Not applicable

7. Statement from the decision maker:

Approved by:

Date:

Councillor Nick Adams-King
Chairman of Cabinet

4 February 2024

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HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Cabinet
Date:	4 February 2025
Title:	Revenue Budget and Precept 2025/26
Report From:	Chief Financial Officer and Director of Corporate Operations

Contact name: Rob Carr

Email: rob.carr@hants.gov.uk

1. The decision:

1.1. Cabinet resolved to:

- a) Note and take account of the Chief Financial Officer's Section 25 report on the Budget.
- b) Approve the updated cash limits for directorates for 2025/26 as set out in Appendix 2 as updated by the changes outlined by the Chief Financial Officer.
- c) Note the report from the Independent Panel who supported the Council's work on reviewing Legal Minimum Service Levels
- d) Delegate authority to the Director of Corporate Operations, following consultation with the Leader and the Chief Executive to make changes to the budget following Cabinet to take account of new issues, changes to figures notified by District Councils or any late changes in the final Local Government Finance Settlement.
- e) Approve for submission to County Council and subject to further consultation where necessary, the savings proposals in Appendix 7; after taking due regard of the Equality Impact Assessments in Appendix 8 and the Cumulative Equality Impact Assessment in Appendix 13.
- f) Approve that the Chief Executive and Corporate Management Team can progress any Phase 3 Savings Proposals where these do not have a direct impact on services provided to the public.
- g) Note that the Council's request to the Government for Exceptional Finance Support was not approved and for the reasons outlined in the meeting, Cabinet do not support triggering a referendum.

2. Cabinet recommends to County Council that:

The County Council approve:

- a) That it notes and takes account of the Chief Financial Officer's Section 25 report on the Budget when the Council determines the budget and precept for 2025/26.
- b) The Revised Budget for 2024/25 as set out in Appendix 1 to the main Budget Report.
- c) The Revenue Budgets for Services for 2025/26 as set out in Appendix 3 to the main Budget Report.
- d) The overall Revenue Budget for the County Council as amended at the meeting which requires a draw from the Budget Bridging Reserve of £64.936m.
- e) The Savings proposals set out in Appendix 7, taking account of the Equality Impact Assessments detailed in Appendix 8 and the Cumulative Equality Impact Assessment in Appendix 13 and subject to any stage 2 consultations that may be required (all in the main Budget Report).
- f) The Reserves Strategy at Appendix 10 to the main Budget Report.
- g) The **council tax requirement** for the County Council for the year beginning 1 April 2025 of £876,369,719.30.
- h) The County Council's band D council tax for the year beginning 1 April 2025 is £1,609.83, an increase of 4.995%, of which 2% is specifically for adult social care.
- i) The County Council's council tax for the year beginning 1 April 2025 for properties in each tax band is:

	£
Band A	1,073.22
Band B	1,252.09
Band C	1,430.96
Band D	1,609.83
Band E	1,967.57
Band F	2,325.31
Band G	2,683.05
Band H	3,219.66

- j) Precepts be issued totalling £876,369,719.30 on the billing authorities in Hampshire, requiring the payment in such instalments and on such date set

by them previously notified to the County Council, in proportion to the tax base of each billing authority's area as determined by them and as set out below:

Local Authority	Tax Base	Council Tax Precept (HCC share)
Basingstoke and Deane	70,025.33	112,728,876.99
East Hampshire	52,823.33	85,036,581.33
Eastleigh	49,576.31	79,809,431.13
Fareham	44,596.40	71,792,622.61
Gosport	27,086.50	43,604,660.30
Hart	43,072.16	69,338,855.33
Havant	43,147.40	69,459,978.94
New Forest	73,355.00	118,089,079.66
Rushmoor	33,410.57	53,785,337.90
Test Valley	52,407.00	84,366,360.81
Winchester	54,886.50	88,357,934.30

- k) The Capital & Investment Strategy for 2025/26 (and the remainder of 2024/25) as set out in Appendix 11 to the main Budget Report.
- l) The Treasury Management Strategy for 2025/26 (and the remainder of 2024/25) as set out in Appendix 12 to the main Budget Report.
- m) That authority is delegated to the Director of Corporate Operations to manage the County Council's investments and borrowing according to the Treasury Management Strategy Statement as appropriate.

3. Reasons for the decision:

- 3.1. The County Council must by law set a balanced budget each year and notify billing authorities by 1 March of the council tax precept that they are levying on them. The report and appendices meet this requirement.

4. Other options considered and rejected:

- 4.1. The budget, council tax and savings options are almost limitless and officers have therefore prepared a single set of proposals and recommendations that have been considered by Select Committees, agreed by Executive Members and then are put forward to Cabinet and County Council for final approval. Amendments to the proposals can be made as part of this process and indeed as part of the final budget setting at County Council.

5. Conflicts of interest:

5.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: None.

5.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: None

6. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: None

7. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: Not applicable

8. Statement from the decision maker:

Approved by:	Date:
----- Councillor Nick Adams-King Chairman of Cabinet	4 February 2024

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Cabinet
Date:	4 February 2025
Title:	Capital Programme 2025/26 to 2027/28
Report From:	Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Operations

Contact name: Rob Carr

Email: rob.carr@hants.gov.uk

1. The decision:

1.1. That Cabinet resolved to:

- a) Recommend to County Council that the capital programme as set out in Appendix 3 is approved (including the revisions to the previously approved programme as set out in Appendix 2).

2. Reasons for the decision:

2.1. The County Council must agree its capital programme at its meeting on 13 February 2025. The Leader will present his budget speech and recommendations at this meeting. This report provides the background to those budget decisions and presents the recommendations from the Leader and the Cabinet to the County Council.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

3.1. Other options are not available as far as process and timetable are concerned, but the Leader of the Opposition may wish to present alternative recommendations on the capital programme at County Council, as an amendment to these proposals.

4. Conflicts of interest:

4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: None

4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: None

5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: Not applicable

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: Not applicable

7. Statement from the decision maker:

Approved by:

Date:

**Councillor Nick Adams-King
Chairman of Cabinet**

4 February 2024