

# Public Document Pack



## NOTICE OF MEETING

<b>Meeting</b>	Hampshire 2050, Corporate Services and Resources Select Committee
<b>Date and Time</b>	Monday 28 April 2025 at 2.30 pm
<b>Place</b>	Ashburton Hall, Elizabeth II Court, The Castle, Winchester
<b>Enquiries to</b>	members.services@hants.gov.uk

Carolyn Williamson FCPFA  
Chief Executive  
The Castle, Winchester SO23 8UJ

## FILMING AND BROADCAST NOTIFICATION

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If filmed, and filming of the meeting is paused for any reason while the meeting is still taking place, then an audio recording will be commenced in order to assist with minute taking and to resolve any lack of clarity. Audio recordings will not be broadcast.

## AGENDA

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All Members who believe they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting must declare that interest and, having regard to Part 3 Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter is discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore all Members with a Personal Interest in a matter being considered at the meeting should consider, having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 4 of the Code, whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 5 of the Code, consider whether it is appropriate to leave the meeting while the matter is discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

**3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 3 - 6)**

To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting held on 6 March 2025.

**4. DEPUTATIONS**

To receive any deputations notified under Standing Order 12.

**5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

To receive any announcements the Chairman may wish to make.

**6. COUNTY COUNCILLOR GRANTS TASK AND FINISH WORKING GROUP (Pages 7 - 14)**

To consider a report of the Director of Hampshire 2050 recommending the initiation of a Task and Finish Working Group to review the County Councillors Grants Scheme.

**ABOUT THIS AGENDA:**

**On request, this agenda can be provided in alternative versions (such as large print, Braille or audio) and in alternative languages.**

**ABOUT THIS MEETING:**

**The press and public are welcome to attend the public sessions of the meeting. If you have any particular requirements, for example if you require wheelchair access, please contact [members.services@hants.gov.uk](mailto:members.services@hants.gov.uk) for assistance.**

**Where there are exempt appendices to an item being considered, the debate on the item will usually be held in public. Members will only exclude the press and public if they intend to discuss or refer to exempt information. The exempt information is provided to the decision makers to assist with their decision making, however the debate and confirmation of the decision being taken will usually take place in public.**

County Councillors attending as appointed members of this Committee or by virtue of Standing Order 18.5; or with the concurrence of the Chairman in connection with their duties as members of the Council or as a local County Councillor qualify for travelling expenses.

# Public Document Pack Agenda Item 3

AT A MEETING of the Hampshire 2050, Corporate Services and Resources  
Select Committee of HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle,  
Winchester on Thursday 6 March 2025

Chairman:

\* Councillor Jonathan Glen

* Councillor Rod Cooper	* Councillor Derek Mellor
* Councillor Prad Bains	* Councillor Rob Mocatta
* Councillor Graham Burgess	Councillor Tanya Park
* Councillor Adrian Collett	* Councillor Stephen Philpott
* Councillor Alex Crawford	* Councillor Stephen Reid
* Councillor Juliet Henderson	Councillor Patricia Stallard
* Councillor Keith House	* Councillor Bill Withers Lt Col (Retd)
* Councillor Peter Latham	* Councillor Malcolm Wallace

\*Present

**Also present with the agreement of the Chairman:** Councillors Nick Adams-King, Leader and Executive Member for Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services. Jan Warwick, Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services, Zoe Huggins, Executive Member for Hampshire 2050 (Climate Change, Culture and Partnerships) and HR, Communications and Performance, Roz Chadd, Executive Lead Member for Children's Services and Steve Forster, Executive Member for Education.

## 80. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Tanya Park and Patricia Stallard. Councillors Jackie Porter and Andrew Joy attended as the respective deputies.

## 81. 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 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.

## 82. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 23 JANUARY 2025

The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and agreed

## 83. DEPUTATIONS

Deputations were received from the following, who all spoke against the recommendations:

- Heather Blades, Alfie Nelson and Jackie Davis
- Clare Martin
- Sara Willoughby and Kevin Harcombe
- Jennifer McCavour and 2 students from local schools
- Lin Gell
- Pamela Charlwood

County Councillors Lesley Meenaghan, Mike Ford, Pal Hayre and Joanne Burton also attended to speak as local Members.

The Chairman thanked the deputations for attending to speak and sharing their experiences with the Committee.

#### 84. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman confirmed that Members had received correspondence from Eric Bidwell who did not support the proposed change of use of Stubbington Study Centre site.

The Chairman had also received correspondence from Derek Kelson who did not support the closure of the Stubbington Study Centre.

#### 85. **PROPOSALS RELATING TO THE PROVISION OF A SPECIALIST SECURE WELFARE CHILDREN'S HOME - LESS EXEMPT APPENDICES**

The Select Committee pre-scrutinised a report going to Cabinet (item 6 in the minute book) on the provision of a specialist secure welfare children's home in Stubbington, Fareham.

During questions of officers, the following points were clarified:

- There were no current plans to invest further in Stubbington Study Centre
- An Asset of Community Value was being determined by Fareham Borough Council but the decision by Cabinet was around repurposing the site as opposed to selling it.
- Stubbington did not contribute to the Outstanding OFSTED of Children's Services and was a separate non statutory service. Swanwick was inspected annually by OFSTED.
- 25-30% of children placed at Swanwick were Hampshire children, and it was important to note that other Hampshire children were placed in other local authority secure homes.
- At any one time up to 40 local authorities are looking to place children in secure units with only one or two beds available.
- There was no alternative site for Stubbington Study Centre should the proposals be refused.
- The Government grant did not cover the purchase of land to facilitate a new site, but timescales and need was a driver for finding a facility.
- Hampshire had not put in a bid for the grant but had been approached due to the current relationship and Outstanding rating of Swanwick Lodge.

- The recommendation was based on the proposals around Swanwick Lodge and it was not possible to say whether the future of Stubbington Study Centre would have been up for discussion in any event.
- Although Swanwick is the secure home for the south region, because of demand and need, children placed at Swanwick come from across England and Wales .
- The financial figures in the exempt part of the pack could not be shared due to the commercial sensitivity – particularly around Stubbington Study Centre, which was in a competitive market. This was the view of legal officers, including the Monitoring Officer and disclosing it would be prejudicial.
- Swanwick Lodge was built around 1995/1996 and was coming to the end of its life, but would remain operative until the new building was complete in 2030.

At this stage, an amendment was proposed by Councillor Graham Burgess and seconded by Councillor Rob Mocatta as follows:

- Commend Officers for their hard work on identifying sites, emphasises the committee recognises the challenges of identifying any alternative sites within the time frame and the criteria prescribed by Government
- Recognise the pressing need for a secure children’s home to support Hampshire’s most vulnerable children
- Recommends Cabinet ask officers to review any additional sites which may become available as a consequence of recent or upcoming decisions
- Recommends Cabinet ask officers to approach district and borough council to see if they have any land holding which may offer a suitable site
- Recommends Cabinet request an extension of time from Department of Education to enable consideration of any alternative site

Councillor Malcolm Wallace then proposed an additional bullet point, seconded by Councillor Prad Bains as follows:

- The Select Committee recommends that Cabinet requests Officers to work with Stubbington Study Centre on a long-term business plan.

This was supported by Councillors Burgess and Mocatta to be incorporated as part of the original amendment.

In debate, Members felt that not enough work had been done on finding an suitable alternative and more research could be done. Some Councillors shared how work on the project could and should have started much sooner and in a more transparent way.

Members acknowledged the demand and importance of premises like Swanwick Lodge, but also recognised the benefits of Stubbington Study Centre to thousands of children each year.

The full amendment was voted upon and supported by the Committee and was therefore carried.

RESOLVED:

That the Select Committee::

1. Commends Officers for their hard work on identifying sites, emphasises the Committee recognises the challenges of identifying any alternative sites within the time frame and the criteria prescribed by Government
2. Recognises the pressing need for a secure children's home to support Hampshire's most vulnerable children
3. Recommends Cabinet ask officers to review any additional sites which may become available as a consequence of recent or upcoming decisions
4. Recommends Cabinet ask officers to approach district and borough councils to see if they have any land holding which may offer a suitable site
5. Recommends Cabinet request an extension of time from Department of Education to enable consideration of any alternative site
6. Recommends that Cabinet requests Officers to work with Stubbington study centre on a long-term business plan

86. **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The meeting did not go into exempt session and therefore there was no requirement to move the resolution to exclude the press and public.

87. **PROPOSALS RELATING TO THE PROVISION OF A SPECIALIST SECURE WELFARE CHILDREN'S HOME - EXEMPT APPENDICES**

The exempt appendices were considered alongside the open report at the meeting.

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Chairman

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Report

<b>Committee:</b>	Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services Select Committee
<b>Date:</b>	28 April 2025
<b>Title:</b>	County Councillor Grants Task and Finish Working Group – Terms of Reference
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Hampshire 2050

**Contact name:** Emma Noyce

**Email:** Emma.noyce@hants.gov.uk

#### **Purpose of Report**

1. The purpose of this report is for the Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services Select Committee to consider whether to initiate a Task and Finish Working Group to oversee and scrutinise the approach and outcomes of the County Councillor Grant Scheme Review.

#### **Recommendation(s)**

2. That the Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services Select Committee:
  - a. Set up a Task and Finish Working Group to oversee and scrutinise the approach and outcomes of the County Councillor Grant Scheme Review.
  - b. Agree the Terms of Reference for the Working Group as set out in Appendix 1.
  - c. Agree the membership of the Working Group.

#### **Contextual Information**

3. In December 2024 a [report](#) was taken to the Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services Decision Day, which proposed a review of the County Councillor Grants Scheme.
4. It was agreed that this review would take place following the completion of the 2024/2025 grant awards window and that the 2025/2026 County Councillor Grant Scheme will not be opened until the outcomes of this review have been reviewed and considered, which will inform decisions about the future operation of the scheme.

#### **Proposal**

5. It is proposed that a Task and Finish Working Group be created, which will review the process and will provide feedback on the presentation of the outcome of the engagement process and review findings.
6. The Task and Finish Working Group will provide a report on its activities to the Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services Select Committee for consideration, as part of the pre-scrutiny process.
7. Following confirmed nominations in accordance with the membership set out in the terms of reference, it is proposed that the working group will hold an initial meeting prior to launch of wider engagement with Members.



**REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:**

**Links to the Strategic Plan**

<b>Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:</b>	yes
<b>People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:</b>	yes
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:</b>	yes
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:</b>	yes

**Other Significant Links**

<b>Links to previous Member decisions:</b>	
<u>County Councillor Grants Review</u>	<u>5<sup>th</sup> December 2024</u>

<b>Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents</b>	
<p>The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)</p>	
<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

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**HAMPSHIRE 2050 AND CORPORATE RESOURCES SELECT COMMITTEE**  
**TASK AND FINISH WORKING GROUP ON THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR GRANT**  
**REVIEW**

**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**1 Introduction**

- 1.1 In December 2024 the Executive Member for Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services [agreed to undertake a review of the County Councillor Grant Scheme](#). It was agreed that the review would commence on the completion of the 2024/2025 grant award window and that the outcomes of the review would be considered before the end of September 2025.
- 1.2 The outcomes of this review will require pre-scrutiny by the Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services Select Committee before any decisions on the future operation of the scheme are made by the relevant Executive Member.
- 1.3 This Task and Finish Working Group is being established to assist the Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services Select Committee to pre-scrutinise the process undertaken and findings in respect of the review of the County Councillor Grants Scheme.

**2 Role and Purpose of the Task and Finish Working Group**

- 2.1 The Task and Finish Working Group is a working group of the Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services Select Committee and is appointed in accordance with the Constitution of Hampshire County Council.
- 2.2 The Task and Finish Working Group's purpose is to oversee and scrutinise the approach and outcomes of the County Councillor Grant Scheme Review.
- 2.3 The Task and Finish Working Group will review the process and will provide feedback on the presentation of the outcome of the engagement process and review findings.
- 2.4 The Task and Finish Working Group will provide a report on its activities to the Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services Select Committee for consideration, as part of the pre-scrutiny process.

**3 Objectives**

- 3.1 To work on behalf of the Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services Select Committee to consider the process undertaken to review Members Grants, including the approach to engaging with County Councillors.
- 3.2 To review feedback from engagement with County Councillors and other findings of the review, to ensure they are appropriately considered and represented in the findings of the work.

#### **4 Outcomes**

- 4.1 To provide feedback regarding the review and associated engagement to the Directorate.
- 4.2 To submit a report to the Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services Select Committee in accordance with the pre-scrutiny process, considering the review process and findings.

#### **5 Method**

- 5.1 The Task and Finish Working Group will meet with Directorate officers to consider the progress of the review.
- 5.2 At each meeting, the Task and Finish Working Group will provide feedback to Officers on the stated objectives of the review.
- 5.3 Where the Task and Finish Working Group reasonably requires further information in order to meet its objectives such information will be provided by Officers.

#### **6 Membership**

- 6.1 The Task and Finish Working Group shall be a cross party group made up of Members of the Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services Select Committee consisting of a total of 8 Members, (5 Conservative Group, 2 Liberal Democrat Group, and either 1 Labour Group or 1 Independent Group).

#### **7 Meetings**

- 7.1 The Working Group will hold an initial meeting in May 2025 to review project plan and proposals for engagement with County Councillors.
- 7.2 At its initial meeting the Task and Finish Working Group shall appoint a Chairman from among its Members.
- 7.3 The Task and Finish Working Group will meet after the County Councillor engagement has taken place to provide feedback to Officers and to agree

its report to the Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services Select Committee. The content of the Report will be agreed by consensus.

7.4 Meetings of the Task and Finish Working Group can be either in person, remote or hybrid.

7.5 Following the submission of the Report the Task and Finish Working Group will cease to exist.

## **8 Code of Conduct**

8.1 Elected Members of the Working Group shall comply with the Hampshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Members.

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