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AT A MEETING of the County Council of HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held
at the castle, Winchester on Thursday, 2nd November, 2017

Chairman:

- * Councillor Graham Burgess
- * Councillor Elaine Still

- * Councillor Elaine Still
- * Councillor John Bennison
- Councillor Fred Birkett
- * Councillor Martin Boiles
- * Councillor Ray Bolton
- * Councillor Jackie Branson
- * Councillor Ann Briggs
- * Councillor Zilliah Brooks
- * Councillor Adam Carew
- * Councillor Fran Carpenter
- * Councillor Christopher Carter
- * Councillor Roz Chadd
- * Councillor Peter Chegwyn
- Councillor Charles Choudhary
- * Councillor Daniel Clarke
- * Councillor Adrian Collett
- * Councillor Mark Cooper
- * Councillor Rod Cooper
- * Councillor Tonia Craig
- * Councillor Roland Dibbs
- * Councillor Alan Dowden
- * Councillor Peter Edgar
- * Councillor Keith Evans
- * Councillor Liz Fairhurst
- * Councillor Steve Forster
- * Councillor Jane Frankum
- * Councillor Andrew Gibson
- * Councillor Jonathan Glen
- * Councillor Judith Grajewski
- * Councillor David Harrison
- * Councillor Marge Harvey
- * Councillor Pal Hayre
- * Councillor Edward Heron
- * Councillor Dominic Hiscock
- * Councillor Geoffrey Hockley
- * Councillor Keith House
- * Councillor Rob Humby
- * Councillor Gary Hughes
- * Councillor Roger Huxstep
- * Councillor Wayne Irish
- * Councillor Gavin James
- * Councillor Andrew Joy
- * Councillor David Keast
- * Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee
- * Councillor Mel Kendal
- * Councillor Rupert Kyrle
- * Councillor Peter Latham
- * Councillor Kirsty Locke
- * Councillor Keith Mans
- * Councillor Alexis McEvoy
- * Councillor Anna McNair Scott
- * Councillor Derek Mellor
- Councillor Floss Mitchell
- * Councillor Rob Mocatta
- * Councillor Russell Oppenheimer
- Councillor Neville Penman
- * Councillor Roy Perry
- Councillor Stephen Philpott
- * Councillor Jackie Porter
- * Councillor Roger Price
- * Councillor Lance Quantrill
- * Councillor Stephen Reid
- * Councillor David Simpson
- * Councillor Patricia Stallard
- * Councillor Robert Taylor
- * Councillor Bruce Tennent
- * Councillor Tom Thacker
- * Councillor Michael Thierry
- * Councillor Mike Thornton
- * Councillor Martin Tod
- * Councillor Rhydian Vaughan
- * Councillor Malcolm Wade
- * Councillor Jan Warwick
- * Councillor Michael Westbrook
- * Councillor Michael White
- * Councillor Bill Withers Lt Col (Retd)
- Councillor Seán Woodward

*Present

Honorary Aldermen Patricia Banks, Susan Glasspool, Tim Knight, Pamela Mutton, Pat West and Michael Woodhall were also in attendance.

31. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Fred Birkett, Charles Choudhary, Floss Mitchell, Neville Penman* and Stephen Philpott.

Apologies were also received from Honorary Aldermen Phrynnette Dickens, Pamela Peskett and Marilyn Tucker.

* on County Council business elsewhere

32. 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.

Councillor Michael Westbrook declared a personal interest, that he has joint Power of Attorney for his mother who is a resident of a Hampshire County Council owned residential home.

33. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2017 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

34. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reported on the wide range of duties undertaken to represent and promote the County Council and its strong community leadership role. The list of engagements undertaken since the last Council meeting by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman had been circulated to all Members. In particular, the Chairman highlighted his Civic Day held on 5 October 2017 which showcased several of the County Council's services and facilities and his pleasure at hosting receptions to honour and reward officers who had completed both 25 and 40 years' in the service of the people of Hampshire.

It was with much sadness the Chairman reported the passing of former County Councillors Peter Langdon, Michael Geddes and Jean Vernon-Jackson. Peter Langdon represented the Hardway Division from 1997 to 2001, Michael Geddes represented Gosport Town from 1997 to 2005 and Bridemary from 2009 to 2013, and Jean Vernon-Jackson represented the Lymington Division from 1985 to 1997. She was also Vice Chairman of the County Council from 1996-97 and Chairman for one month in April 1997.

The Chairman invited Councillor Roy Perry to say a few words and invite personal tributes from the Chamber. The following Councillors spoke: Chris Carter, Peter Chegwyn, Alan Dowden and Peter Edgar. The Council observed a minute's silence as a mark of respect.

35. LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader reported on a commemorative event held on Wednesday 11th October 2017 in the Great Hall in honour of Harvey Cole, Honorary Alderman and a former Leader of the Council.

Following a fire in Three Minsters House on 18 September 2017, the Leader was pleased to report that the initial emergency response phase had been concluded efficiently and effectively with staff relocated to alternative locations within the headquarters complex. Repair works were underway which would take some months to complete. Thanks were extended to staff for their resilience and efforts to keep the County Council's business going in these challenging circumstances and to acknowledge the professionalism of the Fire and Rescue Service in attending and containing the fire.

The Leader was pleased to announce that Hampshire Music Service Flute Choir has won the top prize in the school age category at the first ever 'Flutewise' national competition - a volunteer based charity that creates events and courses for young flute players and the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music.

Necessarily much time and attention had been concentrated on balancing the budget whilst delivering good services however, the Leader emphasised the importance of looking ahead with the aim that Hampshire continues to prosper and flourish economically whilst at the same time protecting the environment. The County Council works in partnership with Local Economic Partnerships, who have responsibilities regarding economic development and the 11 district councils, who have responsibility for certain functions such as planning policy. With a view to developing a whole Hampshire Vision by continuing to work together, the Leader proposed the establishment of an independent Cross Party Commission to include some councillors, inviting leading experts in environment and economic development together with young people to help develop a Vision for Hampshire 2050 - Economically Prosperous - Environmentally Sustained.

36. DEPUTATIONS

The Council received deputations as listed on the Agenda. Ian Abbott was joined by Neal McTaggart who submitted a petition. Hashim Hassan was joined by Julie Considine, Gaynor Austion and Bill O'Donovan.

37. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 16.1.1

Executive Members responded to questions submitted in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.1, as published.

38. **CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES**

The Council considered the report of the Chief Executive (Item 8 in the Minute Book) detailing some Constitutional changes: a revision to the terms of reference of the Children and Families Advisory Panel and the setting up of a Corporate Parenting Board as a sub-committee of the Panel; a revision to the Solent Transport Joint Committee Constitution to facilitate the appointment of Substitute Members, and a change of composition to the Hampshire Health and Wellbeing Board.

The Leader presented the report and moved the recommendations.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the updated terms of reference for the Children and Families Advisory Panel, as set out in section 1 of the report, be approved.
- b) That the County Council notes the establishment of the Corporate Parenting Board by the Children and Families Advisory Panel, as set out in section 1 of the report, and the recommendation to appoint three co-opted Care Ambassadors as Members of the Board, to be identified under Item 9 on the Agenda (Appointments).
- c) That the County Council agrees the updated Constitution of the Solent Transport Joint Committee, as set out in section 2 of the report and the consequential appointment of a Substitute Member representative, to be identified under Item 9 on the Agenda (Appointments).
- d) That the change to the composition of the Hampshire Health and Wellbeing Board, as set out in section 3 of the report, be approved.

39. **APPOINTMENTS**

The Council considered the report of the Chief Executive (Item 9 in the Minute Book), as presented by the Leader, proposing a number of appointments to the County Council's committees and advisory panels, and to outside bodies that the County Council is represented on. The Leader proposed an additional appointment to fill a co-optee vacancy on the Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the appointments set out in the report be approved together with the additional appointment of Councillor Tina Campbell, Eastleigh Borough Council, as a Co-opted Member of the Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee, as nominated by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Government Association.

40. **MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY UPDATE AND TRANSFORMATION TO 2019 SAVINGS PROPOSALS**

The Council considered a report from the Cabinet (Item 10 in the Minute Book) providing an update on the medium term financial strategy for the County and Transformation to 2019 savings proposals and detailed Equality Impact Assessments, considered by the Cabinet on 16 October 2017. The Cabinet report outlines the feedback from the consultation exercise 'Serving Hampshire – Balancing the Budget'. The Cabinet had also considered the Treasury Management mid-year monitoring report for 2017/18 (Appendix 2 to the Cabinet report) in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice and recommended it to the County Council for approval.

In presenting the report, the Leader confirmed that it dealt with some difficult recommendations as a result of reductions in government Grant coupled with inflationary and demographic pressures which required savings of £140m 2019/20; a figure that was reported to Council in February last year. The Leader confirmed that the County Council remains in a stable financial state having successfully delivered a previous round of savings for Transformation to 2017, whilst retaining high quality essential services. By adopting a long term approach, taking difficult decisions in consultation and using the County Council's carefully managed reserves in a way that minimises the impact of changes had proved to be a successful approach and one that would be continued. The Leader emphasised that by law, the County Council must set a balanced budget.

The Leader drew attention to the significant contribution that the various forms of commercial activity makes to the County Council's financial resilience, and asked Members to note the almost £20m extra for Children's Services to address demand pressures, social worker attraction and retention, home to school transport and special guardianship orders. Recommendation (xi) from the Cabinet was highlighted which provided £500,000 support to Town and Parish Councils to provide pump priming funding for targeted, joint initiatives aimed at improving local services.

The Leader also drew Members attention to the additional resolution of Cabinet (xii) as follows:

"Require that officers, as specific decision making processes move forward, continue to explore all viable options to revise or refine these proposals with particular regard to service continuity in areas such as community transport, school crossing patrols and waste and recycling centres, in consultation with partners and stakeholders as appropriate, while recognising that any modification to the proposal must be consistent with the financial and time imperatives of the overall programme."

The Leader moved the report's recommendations and proposed an additional recommendation, which was seconded by Councillor Mel Kendal as follows:

"That Hampshire County Council calls on the Government to permit Councils responsible for administering the national Concessionary Travel Scheme, to levy

modest charges on older persons' passes, e.g. 50p for each use and £10 for issuing and renewing permits, with the balance of revenue raised after costs to be used to support uncommercial, public or community transport services serving vulnerable or disadvantaged residents or areas."

The Executive Member for Economic Development highlighted a number of areas in the Cabinet report such as:

- £14million for building smaller homes for children with complex needs with a further five houses on stream and more to follow; approval to transfer £3million from capital to revenue between the County Council and Enterprise M3 LEP to achieve greater flexibility in delivering economic growth across Hampshire
- work on joint ventures that yield additional income or generate a return either through the County Council's land holdings or through relationships with partners and contractors, e.g. Manydown development
- addition to the Capital Programme of schemes associated with the development of Woodhouse Lane in Botley to facilitate Phase 1 of the Botley By-pass, a new secondary school and other infrastructure and utility works which will assist with Local Plan requirements

The Executive Member for Economic Development concluded that further work would be carried out in line with Cabinet's resolution (xii), as detailed above.

The full opening debate speeches of the Leader and the Executive Member for Economic Development are available to view on the website.

Opposition Group Leaders responded to the proposals. Councillor Keith House, seconded by Councillor Adrian Collett proposed an Amendment to Recommendation (d), as set out in the Council report, as follows and requested that the vote on the Amendment be a recorded vote and if that was lost, that recommendation (d) be voted on separately:

"Revise recommendation d) from

d) The savings proposals in Appendix 3, subject to further consultation and executive decision making where necessary.

to

d) The savings proposals in Appendix 3, be referred back to Cabinet for further discussion to evolve new proposals that

(i) give more protection to frontline services,

(ii) protect vulnerable residents rather than see these communities subject of the harshest cuts

(iii) develop a more coherent long-term investment strategy to generate income,

(iv) genuinely work in partnership with the rest of the public sector rather than cost-shunt to the NHS, police, local councils, and even within the County Council

(v) work with other councils and more effectively lobby government and Hampshire's MPs to protect rather than destroy local services."

No other amendments were proposed.

During the course of a full debate, views in support of, or raising concern, about the proposals were expressed.

The Liberal Democrat Amendment, as above, was put to the vote and the outcome recorded as follows:

FOR 21

Councillors: Chegwyn, Clarke, Collett, Mark Cooper, Craig, Dowden, Frankum, Harrison, Hiscock, House, Irish, Gavin, Kyrle, Porter, Price, Simpson, Tennent, Thornton, Tod, Wade and Westbrook.

AGAINST 49

Councillors: Bennison, Boiles, Bolton, Branson, Briggs, Brooks, Carew, Carpenter, Carter, Chadd, Rod Cooper, Dibbs, Edgar, Evans, Fairhurst, Forster, Gibson, Glen, Grajewski, Harvey, Hayre, Heron, Hughes, Humby, Huxstep, Joy, Keast, Kemp-Gee, Kendal, Latham, Locke, Mans, McEvoy, McNair Scott, Mellor, Mocatta, Oppenheimer, Perry, Quantrill, Reid, Stallard, Still, Taylor, Thacker, Thierry, Vaughan, Warwick, White and Withers.

ABSTAIN 1

Councillor Burgess

The Liberal Democrat Amendment was therefore lost.

Recommendation (d) of the Council report was put to the vote and recorded as follows:

FOR: 47

Councillors: Boiles, Bolton, Branson, Briggs, Brooks, Carpenter, Carter, Chadd, Rod Cooper, Dibbs, Edgar, Evans, Fairhurst, Forster, Gibson, Glen, Grajewski, Harvey, Hayre, Heron, Hughes, Humby, Huxstep, Joy, Keast, Kemp-Gee, Kendal, Latham, Locke, Mans, McEvoy, McNair Scott, Mellor, Mocatta, Oppenheimer, Perry, Quantrill, Reid, Stallard, Still, Taylor, Thacker, Thierry, Vaughan, Warwick, White and Withers.

AGAINST: 21

Councillors: Chegwyn, Clarke, Collett, Mark Cooper, Craig, Dowden, Frankum, Harrison, Hiscock, House, Irish, Gavin, Kyrle, Porter, Price, Simpson, Tennent, Thornton, Tod, Wade, Westbrook.

ABSTAIN: 3

Councillors: Bennison, Burgess and Carew.

The vote on Recommendation (d) of the Council report was therefore carried.

The Additional Recommendation proposed by the Leader was put to the vote and recorded as follows:

FOR: 49

Councillors: Bennison, Boiles, Bolton, Branson, Briggs, Brooks, Carew, Carpenter, Carter, Chadd, Rod Cooper, Dibbs, Edgar, Evans, Fairhurst, Forster, Gibson, Glen, Grajewski, Harvey, Hayre, Heron, Hughes, Humby, Huxstep, Joy, Keast, Kemp-Gee, Kendal, Latham, Locke, Mans, McEvoy, McNair Scott, Mellor, Mocatta, Oppenheimer, Perry, Quantrill, Reid, Stallard, Still, Taylor, Thacker, Thierry, Vaughan, Warwick, White and Withers.

AGAINST: 20

Councillors: Chegwyn, Clarke, Collett, Mark Cooper, Craig, Dowden, Frankum, Harrison, Hiscock, House, Irish, Gavin, Kyrle, Price, Simpson, Tennent, Thornton, Tod, Wade, Westbrook.

ABSTAIN: 2

Councillors: Burgess and Porter.

RESOLVED:

That the County Council approved:

- a) The mid-year report on treasury management activity at Appendix 2 and note potential impact on the investment strategy of defaulting to a retail client with effect from 3 January 2018.
- b) The immediate commencement of applications for elected professional client status with all relevant institutions in order to ensure the County Council can continue to implement an effective investment and acknowledge that in electing for professional client status the County Council are agreeing to forgo the protections available to retail clients attached at Annex 1 of Appendix 2.

- c) That responsibility be delegated to the Section 151 Officer (the Director of Corporate Resources) for the purposes of completing the applications.
- d) The savings proposals in Appendix 3, subject to further consultation and executive decision making where necessary.
- e) The remainder of the spending required, totalling £22.5m, to complete the IT enabling and EPP programmes, following the £16.1m that was approved in July this year.
- f) Recurring funding from 2018/19 onwards of £10.25m to cover the increased costs of social workers, Home to School Transport and payments for Special Guardianship Orders.
- g) A one-off sum of £1.4m from the Invest to Save Reserve to fund additional resource within the in-house Transformation Team until the end of 2019/20.
- h) Up to £35m of capital spend (funded through prudential borrowing) to invest in the purchase of land and development of the Manydown site.
- i) An initial sum of £3m is transferred from capital to revenue between the County Council and Enterprise M3 LEP as outlined in this report and that delegated authority be given to the Director of Corporate Resources to agree further transfers if required.
- j) Capital spend of £1.23m to implement improvements whereby specialist equipment will be installed to improve the quantity and quality of data collection and monitoring in relation to water bacteria risk management. To be funded from the savings in non-departmental budgets in the current year as identified in Section 4.
- k) An increase in the capital programme of £1m per annum from 2017/18 to raise the provision for the general replacement of and additions to the fleet managed by HTM to £3m per annum, to be funded through prudential borrowing.
- l) The addition of schemes associated with the development of land at Woodhouse Lane to the value of £41.695m to the capital programme as outlined in paragraph 11.10.
- m) Hampshire County Council calls on the Government to permit Councils responsible for administering the national Concessionary Travel Scheme, to levy modest charges on older persons' passes, e.g. 50p for each use and £10 for issuing and renewing permits with the balance of revenue raised after costs to be used to support uncommercial, public or community transport services serving vulnerable or disadvantaged residents or areas.

41. **STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

The Council considered the report of the Chief Executive (Item 11 in the Minute Book) seeking approval of a revised Statement of Community Involvement required as a result of legislative changes.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the revised Statement of Community Involvement be approved and resolved to adopt it as a statutory planning document in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
- b) That authority be delegated to the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment, in consultation with the Executive Member for Environment and Transport, to make any further amendments to the Statement of Community Involvement that may be required to comply with new guidance or legislation, provided that these do not significantly change the County Council's stated approach in respect of the scope, emphasis or opportunities for participation.

42. NOTICE OF MOTION

There were no Notices of Motion on this occasion.

43. HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

a) HFRA Questions

No questions had been submitted in accordance with Standing Order 16.3.

b) HFRA Report

The Council received the report of the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority (Item 13b in the Minute Book) as presented by the Chairman of the Fire Authority, Councillor Chris Carter. In addition, Councillor Carter informed Members that Dave Curry, retiring Chief Fire Officer, would receive the Queens Service Medal which would be presented in December.

44. EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Council received the reports of the following Executive Members:

a) The Leader/Cabinet

- i) Adult Safeguarding
- ii) Annual Safeguarding Report – Children's Services
- iii) Supporting (Troubled) Families Programme (STFP) Annual Update

b) Executive Member for Economic Development

- i) Energy Strategy and Carbon Reduction Programmes

c) Executive Member for Environment and Transport

- i) M27 Junction 9 and Parkway South Roundabout Scheme, Whiteley

- ii) Strategic Transport – Hampshire’s Priorities
- d) Executive Member for Public Health
 - i) Appointment to Solent Sea Rescue Organisation
 - ii) Approval to spend for Substance Misuse Services
- e) Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside
 - i) Calshot Camping Pods

Chairman,

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Item 10: Medium Term Financial Strategy and Transformation to 2019 Savings Proposals – Introduction to Debate by the Leader

This report deals with a difficult subject and with some difficult recommendations made first by our officers to Cabinet and now by Cabinet to Council albeit with some crucial changes.

Hampshire is facing similar problems to most other upper tier authorities, although we are probably better placed than many largely because of good forward planning.

Northamptonshire for instance is contemplating a negative budget only achieving a balance over a number of years. Somehow I doubt they will get permission to do that and are likely to get a negative auditors report.

Last time Hampshire got a negative auditors report was back in 1997 in the days of the Lib Lab pact when the auditors said the reserves were too low.

- In essence as a result of reductions in government Grant coupled with inflationary pressures - such as salaries and living wage alone costing another £50m and then demographic pressures - more elderly people and more children, even after assuming a Council Tax increase at the maximum permissible without a referendum, we have to take £140m out of our budget by 2019-20. That £140m figure was reported to Council way back in February last year.
- This further reduction comes on top of the £340m we have already taken out of expenditure which is why it is so hard to find it now by back office re-organisation. Even so, some £20million is coming from budget management measures.

And by law we have to set a balanced budget. That is non negotiable.

People tell us they are prepared to pay a bit more so although we do not set Council Tax today, to keep the expenditure reductions down to £140m we will work on the assumption of the maximum permissible Council Tax increase next year without a referendum i.e. of 1.99% + 3% allowed for social care increases.

- As this report makes clear Hampshire County Council remains in a stable financial state having successfully delivered our previous round of savings for Transformation to 2017. We achieved this while retaining high quality essential services and it is my determination to take the same approach again now. That is an approach predicated on living within our means, adopting a long term approach, taking difficult decisions in consultation and using our carefully managed reserves not to avoid the problem but to deal with it directly and in a way that minimises the impact of changes on our staff and especially our citizens.
- Section 3, page 52 outlines the significant contribution that our various forms of commercial activity make to our financial resilience. This activity is now extensive and wide ranging. Councillor Kendal will expand but it contributes some £130million helping maintain services.
- Section 4, page 63 - I would particularly ask you to note almost £20m extra for Childrens Services - increases related to demand pressures, social worker attraction and retention, home to school transport and special guardianship

orders. We do not get many petitions or deputations concerned with looked after children but they are our statutory responsibility.

- Section 5, page 69 outlines the feedback from our consultation exercise ‘Serving Hampshire – Balancing the Budget’ - the headline findings indicate that the public are in broad agreement with our financial strategy.
- Section 6 shows the Equality Impact Assessments and it is important to note we have full regard to those assessments and public comments.
- I want to pay particular emphasis on the recommendation which was added at Cabinet where we asked officers, to continue to explore all viable options to revise or refine proposals with particular regard to service continuity in areas such as community transport, school crossing patrols and waste and recycling centres, in consultation with partners. If we can find solutions we will.
- In meetings with ministers, in correspondence and through bodies such as the LGA and the CCN, I have regularly stressed the difficult position county councils are in and that sometimes a small, even nominal payment for a service can produce a significant income meaning we can avoid losing the service.
- E.g. a £1 charge per HWRC visit would produce close to £4m; if there were a £10 annual charge for Bus Passes then over £400,000 could be raised, enough to fund a community transport scheme; if there was a 50p charge per journey then that would produce some £4m, enough to keep contributions to commercial bus services that are uneconomic. The Minister of Transport, when I met him, gave a very promising reaction. No promises we can do this but we are determined to continue and I will add an additional recommendation to that effect to ask for your support. The national scheme may suit London but not rural areas like Hampshire.
- Section 9, page 84 reminds us that we will return to the budget in February next year when we will meet again to formally set the precept.
- I particularly want to highlight Recommendation XI from the Cabinet to provide £500K support to Town and Parish Councils to provide pump priming funding for targeted, joint initiatives aimed at improving local services. Where the local Parish or Town Council wants to retain a service, e.g. verge cutting, we want to help them be able to do that perhaps by purchase of equipment.
- I will ask the Council to support the recommendations with an addition (m):

“That the County Council calls on the Government to permit Councils responsible for administering the national Concessionary Travel Scheme, to levy modest charges on older persons’ passes, .e.g. 50p for each use and £10 for issuing and renewing permits with the balance of revenue raised after costs to be used to support uncommercial, public or community transport services serving vulnerable or disadvantaged residents or areas.”

Item 10 – Medium Term Financial Strategy and Transformation to 2019 Savings Proposals – Councillor Mel Kendal, Executive Member for Economic Development

We have the lucky lottery ticket in life.

We are well fed, roof over our head, warm, clean.

But there are a minority of people in Hampshire who are not so lucky, through no fault of their own. Challenging home life, learning difficulties, ill health. These are the people to whom we Conservatives have a major responsibility when framing our revenue and our capital budget.

I am proud that we found £14million for building smaller homes for children with complex needs. We now have 5 houses on stream with more to follow. The children and their carers appreciate the new modern, warm, private arrangements made for each child in a non-institutional environment. But there is a need for more spending on social workers to reduce their case load to prevent more children from going into care. We need to reduce the caseload for social workers to ensure they are professionally manageable.

The last time I spoke here I spoke of the inter-relationship between capital and revenue. We have examples in the papers before you today. This is one. We are able to provide some assistance to Children's Services in this respect through revenue savings on capital. We had anticipated borrowing a total of £155 million for school places provision. The servicing of this loan would have been around £15 million per year. However using the strategy set out in para 4.30 we should reduce the likelihood of extra borrowing to £55million. The resultant saving of £10 million per year in loan servicing costs will meet the extra cost of social workers, Special Guardianship Orders and the extra cost of demographic pressure on home to school transport.

Later in the papers you will note we ask you for approval to convert £3million of capital spend to revenue spend on behalf of the money we hold for the Enterprise M3 LEP in a swap arrangement for greater flexibility in delivering economic growth across Hampshire as detailed in para 10.10.

There are some large capital amounts being added today to our huge capital spend. Our investment in IT provides the backbone of the savings which departments are able to obtain on their revenue due to staff savings arising from greater digitalisation. Alternatively there is avoided cost where other methods would require more expenditure. Some £62 million per year in savings are estimated to arise from the additional IT expenditure of about £40 million and your approval is sought for this. There are also additional one-off amounts for prevention of water bacterial diseases breaking out from our buildings, especially schools, and pump priming money for joint ventures with Town and Parish Councils and extra resources for our Transformation Team in order to support T2019.

As far as producing extra income is concerned you will note the sections in paragraphs 3 up to 3.41 dealing in depth with what we consider feasible and worthwhile for a County Council our size.

In the past I have spoken of the need for us to consider downstream development of our land holdings rather than taking a quicker safer route of selling the land to a developer to cream off the bulk of the profit from the site.. I am pleased that our work on joint venture LLPs now seems to be bearing fruit. As set out in Para 3.46 to 3.49 the objective would be to convert our land holdings to freehold and to develop or sell parcels as we deem appropriate to housing need, and both our cash flow requirement and the profitability. We could also retain properties for key workers rental, rent to buy and part equity purchase arrangements. We seek approval to borrow £35 million under prudential borrowing—and we hope the Treasury does not restrict its use because of the excessive property speculation by some councils. Our objective is to resolve real housing need as well as control the quality of the build, as well as obtain a surplus for investment in services. In any event we have a duty to maximise the return to our ratepayers on our assets. We believe we could generate around £50 million extra from this approach over the next decade from Manydown.(Para 10.5).

The other large development on the horizon is that West of Woodhouse Lane in Botley. I know this is more controversial but we have responded to Eastleigh Borough's request for us to bring this forward to assist with their Local Plan requirement. I believe we have a legal duty to cooperate. The development on land which we own 100% will see a new secondary school, but will also require extensive infrastructure works. Along with Phase 1 of the Botley by pass proposal we seek approval for an additional £41.695 million to our capital programme to cover this work set out in para 11.10. There will be a combination of Government grant and developer contributions to help with this.

Also in section 11 you will note the paragraphs dealing with the link between capital spend and revenue savings. There is also the fact that squeezing contract costs can generate capital savings with their implied revenue saving as we have seen.

As far as our reserves are concerned we shall have to draw on the Grant Equalisation reserve in order to balance the budget for 2018/2019. However I am confident that given the increase in the assumed overall tax base, assumed growth in business rates, a favourable investment wind, and further reviews we can still find another £1.5million to £2million when we do the final sums in February.

And so I leave you with this commitment. As the budget setting process moves forward and as our financial assumptions progress into certainties, I am confident, in line with the additional recommendation made at Cabinet, that we will find alternative ways to sustain some levels of community transport, albeit at reduced levels. I am also confident we will find mitigations that support other areas of particular concern, such as Household Recycling Centres where reducing their effectiveness may have a direct impact on our waste disposal cost. There will still have to be savings, unless we get the extra support from Government for which we have been lobbying. And while we can and will do all we can to find solutions, this Council must support this financial strategy for the sake of the council, its services and our community.