

AT A REMOTE MEETING of the County Council of HAMPSHIRE COUNTY
COUNCIL held on Thursday, 24th September, 2020

Chairman:

* Councillor Melville Kendal

- * Councillor Marge Harvey
- * Councillor John Bennison
Councillor Fred Birkett
- * Councillor Martin Boiles
- * Councillor Ray Bolton
- * Councillor Jackie Branson
- * Councillor Ann Briggs
- * Councillor Zilliah Brooks
- * Councillor Graham Burgess
- * 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 MBE
- * 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 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 Rupert Kyrle
Councillor Peter Latham
- * Councillor Keith Mans
- * Councillor Alexis McEvoy
- * Councillor Anna McNair Scott
- * Councillor Derek Mellor
Councillor Floss Mitchell
- * Councillor Rob Mocatta
- * Councillor Kirsty North
- * 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 Elaine Still
- * Councillor Robert Taylor
- * Councillor Bruce Tennent
- * Councillor Tom Thacker
- * Councillor Michael Thierry
- * Councillor Mike Thornton
- * Councillor Martin Tod
- * Councillor Rhydian Vaughan MBE
- * Councillor Malcolm Wade
- * Councillor Jan Warwick
- * Councillor Michael Westbrook
- * Councillor Michael White
- * Councillor Bill Withers Lt Col (Retd)
- * Councillor Seán Woodward

*Present

222. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Roland Dibbs, Mark Kemp-Gee, Peter Latham, Floss Mitchell and Roger Price JP.

223. 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 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.

224. MINUTES

The Council considered the Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 July 2020, which were agreed as a correct record.

225. DEPUTATIONS

The Council received a deputation from Samantha Dalling and Yvette Riley regarding access to Alresford Recycling Centre.

226. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

It was with regret that the Chairman advised the death of former County Councillor Peter Baker. Peter represented the Ringwood division from 1993 to 1997. Councillor Harrison paid tribute to Peter. Members bowed their heads for 30 seconds as a mark of respect.

It was with pleasure that the Chairman announced some awards for the County Council:

- To Amanda Whatley, Business Development Manager for HC3S, the County Council's Catering Service, had recently been awarded the 'Public Sector Catering' Marketing Award for HC3S's 30th Anniversary marketing campaign last year, made all the more pleasing as this is an Award the Service had not previously won.

- Sir Harold Hillier Gardens were awarded Gold (High) at South and South East in Bloom for the sixth year running which is part of the Britain in Bloom competition. The Chairman reported it is a testament to the hard work all the staff and over 200 volunteers who were delighted to win an award again.
- Britain in Bloom' South and South east, have awarded the Wynton Way horticultural site and gardens, near Fareham, the highest grade of level 5 Outstanding. This is only the second year that they have entered and a great achievement to reach such a high standard.

The Chairman was also pleased to report that two new primary school buildings were completed on time despite the Covid-19 crisis and opened their doors at the beginning of this term. The state of the art buildings are at Stoneham Park in Eastleigh and Barton Farm in Winchester. Officers in Children's Services and Property Services worked very closely with the building contractor and the Academy sponsor, the University of Winchester, to ensure the buildings were finished and fitted-out in time for the arrival of pupils. The Chairman congratulated everyone involved for such a great outcome in these challenging times.

227. **LEADER'S REPORT**

The Leader added his condolences to the family of Peter Baker. His thoughts were also with the children and families affected by the bus accident in Winchester on Thursday 10 September. The County Council was providing all possible support to Henry Beaufort School including support by the County Council's Education Psychology Team.

In regard to Covid-19 and the challenges concerning testing, the Leader reported that this was a national issue largely caused by insufficient laboratory capacity and increased public demand for tests. The immediate impacts on Hampshire were recognised by the County Council and its partners who were doing all they could to mitigate these impacts to ensure vital services were not interrupted and that Business Continuity Plans are in place across all services. The Leader had also updated Hampshire's MPs on the challenges regarding testing and the support they could give by making representations to central Government and several responded to confirm they had done so. The County Council continues to ensure that its staff and residents are aware of the key public health messages around testing through on-line and countryside outdoor campaigns were proving effective. Good arrangements are also in place for the testing of care workers in care homes. The level of infection in Hampshire was not only below the national average but also below that of many other parts of the South East, borne out by the latest figures which indicated that since the start of the pandemic there had been 5,722 cases in Hampshire with just over 1,000 deaths. In the last week there had been 107 new cases and two deaths.

Turning to schools, the Leader welcomed the positive outcome of the Government's decision to deal with the examination results of pupils over the last year through assessment by teachers. In terms of attendance levels, since September over 90% of children had returned to school in Hampshire which was

very encouraging. Advice and support was being provided to individual schools in regard to any Covid-19 related issues they might have.

The Leader confirmed that a report would be considered by Cabinet next week regarding the position of the County Council's finances, which continues to be challenging. The Transformation Programme that was based on last year's settlement to save £80m over two years was continuing, albeit in the current situation it would be difficult to do everything that was planned. The latest figures indicate that, separate from the programme, the County Council has an £83m funding shortfall unless additional funding from central Government is forthcoming. Due to the prudent use of its reserves, the County Council is in a position to cover this shortfall in the short-term. However, reserves could only be used once, therefore it was important that additional funding was received to balance the revenue budget. Strong representations to central Government were being made highlighting the impact that responding to Covid-19 was having on the County Council's finances.

There had been much reporting in the press on Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution of late and the anticipated White Paper had not been published. At the present time, the Leader remained committed to working closely with Hampshire's district and borough Councils to ensure that residents get the best public services they possibly can in the current circumstances. The Leader also reported that if the County Council was directed by central Government to consider unitarization, the only way forward would be for a single Unitary Council for the whole of Hampshire. There would be little benefit financially in dividing the County up and many disadvantages of disaggregating services, particularly services for children and adults.

In regard to environmental matters, the Leader thanked the deputees for their contribution earlier in the proceedings and would ask the Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment to look into the points they raised in relation to recycling centres.

The Leader referred to the successful Hampshire 2050 Conference which also included many of the Hampshire 2050 Commissioners. A lot of work had been done since the County Council declared a climate emergency which had culminated in the preparation of an Action Plan setting out future work the County Council will be doing, and with their partners in both the public and private sectors, to ensure carbon emission reduction targets are met. The Leader encouraged Members to read the Action Plan which would be considered by the Cabinet on 6 October. Current circumstances has meant that everyone has had to look at different ways of working and the Leader hoped that sustainability would feature highly in plans for future working.

Lastly, the Leader referred to the recently published Planning White Paper and its environmental implications. It would therefore be important to work closely with district and borough Council partners to make representations on the advantages and disadvantages of the planning document, particularly in areas such as digital connectivity for new dwellings which is increasingly important in both urban and rural areas in the current circumstances.

228. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 16.1.1

Executive Members responded to questions 1 to 10 submitted in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.1 as published within the 30 minutes permitted.

A Proposal pursuant to Standing Order 20.6 to suspend Standing Orders to allow the remaining questions to be put and responded to at the meeting was proposed by Councillor Martin Tod. The Chairman put the proposal to the vote. The majority of Members in attendance voted against the Proposal which was lost.

The Chairman confirmed that in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.5 written responses for Questions 11-18 would be circulated to all Members.

229. APPOINTMENTS

The Council considered the report of the Chief Executive (Item 8 in the Minute Book), and presented by the Leader, proposing a number of appointments to the County Council's committees.

RESOLVED:

- a) That Lisa-Marie Taylor be appointed as the Buddhist representative in Group A on the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education replacing the Reverend Seishin Darren Clarke.
- b) That Captain Steven Masters be appointed as the Associated British Ports representative on the River Hamble Harbour Management Committee replacing Captain Phil Buckley.

230. NOTICE OF MOTION

The Council considered a Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Jackie Porter and seconded by Councillor Malcolm Wade, submitted in accordance with Standing Order 18.1 as set out in Item 9 on the Agenda.

Councillor Steve Forster declared a personal interest in his involvement with a business looking at electrification and sustainability.

In speaking to the Motion, Councillor Porter drew Members attention to a typographical error, as submitted, in recommendation 3 that should read "in all 11 districts", which was noted.

In opening the debate and welcoming the principle of the Motion, the Leader highlighted that, should the recommendations be agreed by the Council, careful consideration would need to be given to the financing of those recommendations in light of the Council's current financial position as a result of responding to Covid-19 as reported earlier in the proceedings. The Leader also highlighted that it may be necessary for the Council to consider the matter again once the implications of the Motion were better understood.

During the course of the debate there was cross party support for the Motion in terms of climate change and health benefits such as reducing obesity. Concerns were expressed regarding the funding of the recommendations, detailed consideration and evaluation of the implications of the recommendations, and the importance of appropriate levels of consultation. A number of Members made it clear that their support for the Motion was conditional upon further consideration of the financial implications. It was noted that a number of initiatives were in operation in schools such as 'park and stride' and that the County Council had already introduced cycling and walking pop-up schemes which have been monitored, and where necessary modified to ensure they are effective, and in some cases, removed if they have proved unsuccessful. Members also noted that the County Council was waiting to hear if their bid for funding from the Emergency Active Travel Fund is successful. In addition, a lot of work was being done nationally regarding electrification of modes of transport which will have significant impact on reducing air quality issues.

Members were also reminded of the work carried out by the Economy, Transport and Environment (ETE) Select Committee regarding walking and cycling as a consistent theme and it was confirmed that the Select Committee would also be giving consideration to the issues set out in the Motion at future meetings.

In summing up the debate the Leader welcomed the various views expressed by Members and the opportunity to debate these important issues. The Leader also highlighted the need for wider discussion about home to school transport, for those that qualify and the year-on-year rising cost of provision, which was in excess of £30m in the last year. For clarity, the Leader confirmed that the proposals were currently unfunded and would require further consideration by Cabinet and the ETE Select Committee before final determination on implementation.

Councillor Porter welcomed that further work on the Motion would be carried out by the ETE Select Committee.

RESOLVED:

This Council resolves to:

1. Work with districts, schools and local partners to swiftly identify those schools in the county that could put a "school streets" scheme in place.
2. Work with districts, schools and local partners to enable all schools that wish to take part in the "school streets" scheme to do so – taking advantage of experimental traffic orders and new statutory guidance over fast-tracked Traffic Regulation Orders where necessary.
3. Measure air quality around a sample of schools in all 11 districts at child-head height to identify the level of air pollution children are being exposed to at school drop-off and pick-up.
4. Pilot additional measures to improve air quality near schools in 2020/21, such as 'living green walls' and tree planting.

231. **HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY / SHADOW HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

a) Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority Questions

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

b) Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority Report

The Council received and noted the report of the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority as presented by Councillor Chris Carter in his capacity as Chairman of the Fire Authority.

c) Shadow Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Authority

The Council received and noted the report of the Shadow Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Authority as presented by Councillor Chris Carter in his capacity as Chairman of the Shadow Fire Authority.

232. **CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS: APPOINTMENTS TO THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD FOR HAMPSHIRE**

The Council received the report of the Health and Wellbeing Board for Hampshire reporting a number several changes to the membership of the Board taken under delegated authority by the Head of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

233. **EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a) Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health

- Hampshire Disabilities Day Opportunities Model (HDDOM)

The Meeting closed at 12.08pm.

Chairman,