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AT A MEETING of the County Council of HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held
at the castle, Winchester on Thursday, 22nd February, 2018

Chairman:

* Councillor Graham Burgess

Vice-Chairman:

* Councillor Elaine Still

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

*Present

Honorary Aldermen Patricia Banks, Colin Davidovitz, Roger Kimber, Tim Knight, Michael Woodhall and Sharyn Wheale were also in attendance.

45. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Ray Bolton, Peter Edgar, Keith Evans, Rupert Kyrle, Bill Withers* and Seán Woodward.

Apologies were also received from Honorary Aldermen Phrynnette Dickens, Susan Glasspool and Marilyn Tucker.

* on County Council business elsewhere.

46. **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.

The Chairman reminded Members that general dispensations had been granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel in regard to provisions in Section 31(4)(a) and (b) of the Localism Act enabling all Members of the County Council with a beneficial interest in land within the administrative area of the County Council to participate in and vote on any business of the County Council relating to the setting of the Council Tax or Precept and also enable Members in receipt of an allowance under the Members' Allowances Scheme, to vote on business relating to the Members' Allowances Scheme.

Councillor Jackie Porter declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in regard to Item 13b) on the agenda.

47. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 2017 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

48. **DEPUTATIONS**

Deputations were received as detailed on the Summons.

49. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman had circulated the list of engagements carried out by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman since the last Council meeting which reported on the wide range of duties undertaken to represent and promote the County Council and its strong community leadership role.

The Chairman had pleasure in congratulating Honorary Alderman Michael Woodhall who had been awarded a British Empire Medal recognising his work to support various local groups and charities in the area of building preservation and heritage as well as his role in helping to establish Hampshire Farmers' Markets.

It was with much sadness the Chairman reported the passing of five former County Councillors: Honorary Alderman Ken Thornber CBE, John Dawson, Rita Burgess, Peter Rodgers, Adrian Evans and Eunice Byrom.

Honorary Alderman Ken Thornber CBE served on Hampshire County Council for 40 years, being first elected to represent the Electoral Division of Hythe from 1997 to 1980, Dibden and Hythe from 1981 to 1988 and Brockenhurst from 1989 to 2017. He was Leader of the Council from 1999 to 2013, Chairman of the Council from 2013 to 2014 and conveyed the title of Honorary Alderman in November 2017.

John Dawson represented the Electoral Division of Totton North from 1993 to 2001.

Rita Burgess represented the Electoral Division of Basingstoke South West from 2009 to 2017.

Peter Rodgers represented the Electoral Division of Catherington from 1998 to 2001.

Adrian Evans represented the Lymington Division from 2005 to 2013.

Eunice Byrom represented the Catherington Division from 2001 to 2009.

The Chairman invited the Leader, Councillor Roy Perry to pay tribute followed by Councillors Stephen Reid, Peter Chegwyn, David Harrison, Marge Harvey, Jane Frankum, Chris Carter, Keith House, Keith Mans, Adam Carew and Malcolm Wade.

The Council observed a minute's silence as a mark of respect.

50. **LEADER'S REPORT**

Further to the tributes paid to former Members of the Council, the Leader reminded Members of the Thanksgiving Service for Honorary Alderman Ken Thornber CBE on Friday 2 March 2018.

The Leader reported that the Secretary of State for Education, the Rt. Hon. Damien Hinds MP would be visiting the County Council soon. The Leader had

recently attended a meeting of the South East England Councils including a seminar on planning and housing growth and attended a wider London Summit opened by the Mayor of London to explore the implication of London's growth and the impact on the South East.

The Leader also reported on a new partnership with the Isle of Wight Council covering Public Health, to take effect immediately for an initial period of six months, which is separate from the Isle of Wight's existing partnership with the County Council for the provision of Children's Services. Public Health is currently working on an EU-funded project on schemes to improve men's health and particularly their mental health. Under this project the County Council had received £250,000 for the Men's Shed initiative.

51. **QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 16.1.1**

Executive Members responded to questions submitted in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.1, as published with the exception of question 6 for which a written answer would be provided.

52. **APPOINTMENTS**

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

RESOLVED:

That the following appointments be approved:

- a) That Councillor Lance Quantrill replace Councillor Floss Mitchell on the Audit Committee and that Councillor Zilliah Brooks be appointed as the Conservative Group Substitute Member.
- b) That Robert Sanders replace Jeff Williams as the Co-opted Member of the Children and Young People Select Committee representing the Church of England.
- c) That Gareth Davis replace Caroline Edmondson as the Co-opted Member of the Children and Young People Select Committee representing Primary Schools.
- d) That Dan Busby replace Carol Ivermee as a Care Ambassador Co-opted Member of the Corporate Parenting Board.
- e) That Julia Abbott, David Heck, Martin James and Richard Kinch be appointed as the County Council's Independent Remuneration Panel for a four-year term of office commencing on 1 March 2018, expiring on 28 February 2022.

53. REVENUE BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2018/19 AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2018/19 TO 2020/21

The Leader presented his Budget Speech regarding the Revenue Budget and Precept for 2018/19 (Item 9 in the Minute Book) and was assisted by Councillor Mel Kendal, the Executive Member for Economic Development in regard to the Capital Programme for the period 2018/19 to 2020/21.

In commending the revenue budget proposals the Leader highlighted continuing challenges, namely demographic pressures – growing demand for social care for the elderly, for vulnerable adults and for young children, inflation – a 2% salary increase was being budgeted for, and the reducing Revenue Support Grant from Government which would eventually reduce to zero. Due to these challenges and to protect services in the face of on-going major financial pressure, a Council Tax Precept of 5.99% was proposed, which would remain one of the lowest in the country. The County Council was required to set a balanced budget and this was achievable as a result of a clear strategy and careful financial management.

In regard to the Capital Programme, the Executive Member for Economic Development highlighted a number of key points: a further £26m for the provision of 90 more units for adults with disabilities in Basingstoke, New Milton, Aldershot, Eastleigh and Fareham; increasing the number of children’s social workers and addressing the increasing demands of Home to School Transport; investment in libraries, country parks and outdoor centres and the revised PFI financing for the street lighting contract resulting in £1m per year in savings which had reduced the need to find savings in Household Waste Recycling Centres. The Executive Member drew Members attention to the urgent schemes listed in Appendix 2, which required the Council’s approval including the Redbridge flyover, the Winchester Leisure complex and the Basingstoke Canal.

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. During the course of a full debate, views in support of, or raising concern, about the proposals were expressed. No Amendments were moved therefore the recommendations were put to the vote in accordance with Standing Order 22.2, the outcome of which was recorded as follows:

FOR 48

Councillors: Bennison, Birkett, Boiles, Branson, Briggs, Brooks, Carew, Carpenter, Carter, Chadd, Choudhary, Rod Cooper, Dibbs, Fairhurst, Forster, Gibson, Glen, Grajewski, Harvey, Hayre, Heron, Hughes, Humby, Huxstep, Joy, Kemp-Gee, Kendal, Latham, Locke, Mans, McEvoy, McNair Scott, Mellor, Mitchell, Mocatta, Oppenheimer, Penman, Perry, Philpott, Quantrill, Reid, Stallard, Still, Taylor, Thacker, Rhydian, Warwick, White,

AGAINST 20

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

ABSTAIN 1

Councillor Burgess

RESOLVED:

A. Revenue Budget and Precept 2018/19

That the County Council approves:

- a) The Treasurer's report under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 (Appendix 7 to Annex A) and take this into account when determining the budget and precept for 2018/19.
- b) The Revised Budget for 2017/18 set out in Appendix 1 to Annex A.
- c) The Revenue Budget for 2018/19 as set out in Annex 1 to this Part I report.
- d) Funding for one off revenue priorities linked to the development of capital investment totalling £3.045m as set out in paragraphs 5.25 to 5.36 of Annex A.
- e) The strategy for dealing with new capital investment priorities as set out in Section 6, together with the addition of new schemes totalling £15.78m (net) as detailed in Appendix 2 to Annex A.
- f) The changes to ETE savings proposals as outlined in paragraphs 9.8 to 9.14 of Annex A, together with the proposed increase in corporate housekeeping savings that will be met from additional council tax income generated from the 1% increase in 2018/19.
- g) Recurring funding from 2018/19 onwards of £3.2m rising to £3.7m per annum, to be held within contingencies, to partly cover the forecast increased costs for Children Looked After.
- h) That the total **budget requirement** for the general expenses of the County Council for the year beginning 1 April 2018, be £751,701,377.
- i) That the **council tax requirement** for the County Council for the year beginning 1 April 2018, be £608,452,465.
- j) That the County Council's band D council tax for the year beginning 1 April 2018 be £1,200.96, an increase of 5.99% of which 3% is specifically for adults' social care.

- k) The County Council's council tax for the year beginning 1 April 2018 for properties in each tax band be:

	£
Band A	800.64
Band B	934.08
Band C	1,067.52
Band D	1,200.96
Band E	1,467.84
Band F	1,734.72
Band G	2,001.60
Band H	2,401.92

- l) Precepts be issued totalling £608,452,465 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 authorities area as determined by them and as set out below:

Basingstoke and Deane	64,085.00
East Hampshire	49,459.56
Eastleigh	44,805.97
Fareham	42,605.30
Gosport	26,524.90
Hart	40,392.40
Havant	40,704.00
New Forest	70,621.00
Rushmoor	30,971.38
Test Valley	48,079.00
Winchester	48,389.90

- m) The Treasury Management Strategy and the Annual Investment Strategy for 2018/19 (and the remainder of 2017/18) as set out in Appendix 8 to Annex A be approved, including:

- The Prudential Indicators for 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21. (Appendix 8 - Annex C).
- The Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement (Appendix 8 - Annex D).
- The delegation of authority to the Director of Corporate Resources to manage the Council's investments according to the risk assessment process in the Investment Strategy as appropriate.
- Investments of up to £35m for up to 20 years in the Manydown joint venture in which the County Council has a significant interest.
- The delegation of authority to the Director of Corporate Resources to approve investments in the Manydown joint venture in consultation with the Executive Member for Policy and Resources.

B. Capital Programme 2018/19 – 2020/21

That the County Council approve:

- n) The capital programme for 2018/19 and the provisional programmes for 2019/20 and 2020/21 as set out in Appendix 3 to Annex B.
- o) The new capital schemes contained in Appendix 4 to Annex B.

54. HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL PAY STATEMENT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2018/19

The Council considered a report from the Employment in Hampshire County Council (EHCC) Committee (Item 10 in the Minute Book), as presented by Councillor Stephen Reid in his capacity as Chairman of the EHCC Committee, which sought approval of the County Council's Pay Statement for the financial year 2018/19 as set out in the Annex and Appendix A to the report. Councillor Reid reported that the County Council is required to prepare and publish its Pay Statement on an annual basis and commended the draft Pay Statement to the Council.

RESOLVED:

That the County Council approves the Pay Statement for 2018/19 as detailed in the Annex and Appendix A to the report and agrees that EHCC Committee remains the appropriate Committee to agree Chief Officer remuneration for Chief Officers above Grade K, including individual salary offers in respect of any new Chief Officer appointments, any changes to Chief Officer salaries after appointment and any severance packages for Chief Officers leaving the County Council, in accordance with the Pay Statement.

55. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21 AND 2021/22

The Council considered a report from the Employment in Hampshire County Council (EHCC) Committee (Item 11 in the Minute Book), as presented by Councillor Stephen Reid in his capacity as Chairman of the EHCC Committee. Councillor Reid commended the work that had been done by the County Council's Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) to prepare a new Members' Allowances Scheme and confirmed that the recommendations of EHCC Committee were in line with the recommendations put to them by the IRP.

RESOLVED:

That, taking into account the recommendations of the IRP, the County Council approves:

- a) That there should be no change to the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2017/18.

- b) A Members' Allowances Scheme for the years 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, and 2021/22, whereby Basic Allowances and Special Responsibility Allowances payable to Members are adjusted from 1 April 2018, and thereafter annually, in line with the pay award (if any) for Senior Managers at Grade H.
- c) A Special Responsibility Allowance in the sum of £675 per annum to Co-opted Scheme Member Representatives of the Hampshire Pension Fund Panel and Board from 1 April 2018.
- d) That from 1 April 2018 the Dependents' Carers Allowance (including dependent care for children with special needs) be that payable at the County Council's Care at Home rate, and may be amended from time to time as required.
- e) A revised Childcare Allowance from 1 April 2018 at the National Living Wage hourly amount for age 25 years and over.
- f) That from 1 April 2018 any other allowances payable, including allowances for the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the County Council and other persons holding positions required by law under legislation not part of the Members' Allowances Scheme, be henceforth adjusted by the same adjustment of allowances (if any) payable under the Members' Allowances Scheme.
- g) That the time limit for claiming Members' Expenses via ESS Lite should be three months, calculated from the beginning of the month in which the expenses are incurred.

56. **GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION**

The Council considered the report of the Chief Executive (Item 12 in the Minute Book), as presented by the Leader, setting out the implications for the County Council of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and a new Data Protection Act that will take effect from 25 May 2018.

RESOLVED:

That the County Council:

- a) Noted the implications of the GDPR for the County Council and that in the interests of good governance, agreed that all Members should undertake the revised e-learning data protection module, prior to the introduction of the new Regulation on 25 May 2018.
- b) Agreed that completion of the data protection e-learning module is included as a requirement for new and returning Members as part of the Member Induction Programme, after any County Council elections.

57. NOTICES OF MOTION

Two Notices of Motion had been received in accordance with Standing Order 18.1.

- a) Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Roy Perry, seconded by Councillor Keith Mans:

“This Council urges district local authority partners in the County of Hampshire, and the unitary authorities of Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight, to re-engage and return to the original prospectus for a Combined Authority for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight that we all agreed to in September 2015 together with the two LEPs and two National Parks, and re-submit to the Government with additional focus on the challenges of the economy, housing and health.”

In moving the Motion, the Leader reported that it was timely for the County Council to re-address the issue of Devolution in Hampshire and summarised the background to date. For clarity, the Leader confirmed that this proposal was for a Combined Authority for all of Hampshire, with scope to enhance the original Combined Authority bid to address the challenges of the local economy, housing and health. It was not a proposal for a Mayoral Combined Authority or a Unitary Council.

During the course of debate, during which a number of views were expressed, the Chairman allowed a short break in the proceedings to facilitate the formulation of a possible amendment to the Motion.

In summing up, the Leader acknowledged and respected the attempt to find a compromise amendment, however this had not been possible. He re-iterated the importance of the County Council giving their agreement to entering into discussion with other partners, not in private, but in an open and democratic way to find a solution that does not lead to the division of the County of Hampshire and the Motion proposed provided a platform for that engagement. Therefore, in the absence of a formal amendment, the Leader commended the Motion to the Council.

The Motion was put to the vote. A majority of the Members present supported the Motion and it was therefore carried.

RESOLVED:

That this Council urges district local authority partners in the County of Hampshire, and the unitary authorities of Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight, to re-engage and return to the original prospectus for a Combined Authority for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight that we all agreed to in September 2015 together with the two LEPs and two National Parks, and re-submit to the Government with additional focus on the challenges of the economy, housing and health.

- b) Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Rob Humby, seconded by Councillor Roy Perry:

“This Council welcomes proposals for the third runway at Heathrow and encourages the Government to invest further in transport infrastructure in the South East, including Southern Rail access to Heathrow, to maximise the benefits of international gateways in the South East which support wider economic prosperity in the UK.”

In moving the Motion, the Executive Member for Environment and Transport highlighted that the expansion of Heathrow Airport would deliver up to £30 million of economic benefits in the South East creating up to 33,000 jobs, many of which would be in Hampshire. The proximity of this hub to the local business community was important and the expansion would act as a gateway to explore emerging markets such as Asia and South America. Heathrow Airport was also working with the Enterprise M3 LEP on their Strategic Economic Plan particularly in regard to skills and development. The Executive Member reported that one of the key reasons for the Motion was connectivity, and in particular rail connectivity. The expansion provides an opportunity to connect nearly five million additional passengers to Heathrow which would boost passenger transport options and ease congestion on motorways such as the M3. Inevitably, there would be sustainability concerns therefore any expansion would be in accordance with air quality legal requirements and Heathrow’s own sustainability goals.

During the course of debate and in response to a point of order, the Chairman confirmed that he had received the advice of the Monitoring Officer that a proposed Amendment negated the original Motion, and thus contravened Standing Order 19.7 of Part 3, Chapter 1 of the Constitution. The Chairman ruled that the Amendment was therefore not allowed.

In summing up, the Executive Member for Environment and Transport highlighted the importance of investing in the South East region that would reap benefits for Hampshire and commended the Motion to the Council.

The Motion was put to the vote. A majority of the Members present supported the Motion and it was therefore carried.

RESOLVED:

That this Council welcomes proposals for the third runway at Heathrow and encourages the Government to invest further in transport infrastructure in the South East, including Southern Rail access to Heathrow, to maximise the benefits of international gateways in the South East which support wider economic prosperity in the UK.

58. **HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

- a) HFRA Questions

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

b) HFRA Report

The Council received and noted the report of the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority (Item 14b) in the Minute Book) as presented by Councillor Chris Carter in his capacity as Chairman of the Fire Authority.

60. **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.

61. **EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The Council received the reports of the following Executive Members:

62. **THE LEADER/CABINET**

- a) Commission of Inquiry
- b) Attainment of children and young people in Hampshire Schools
- c) Strategic Partnership for Hampshire County Council to deliver Children's Services for the Isle of Wight Council
- d) Annual Report of the Director of Public Health

63. **EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH**

- a) Alcohol Nurse Service Grants

64. **EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CULTURE, RECREATION AND COUNTRYSIDE**

- a) Hampshire Talented Athlete Scheme
- b) Country Park Transformation Programme

65. **EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT**

- a) Waste Strategy

Chairman

Item 9: Revenue Budget and Precept 2018/19 and Capital Programme 2018/19 to 2020/21 – Introduction to Debate by the Leader

Mr Chairman - Councillors

As in previous years I shall divide the Budget presentation between myself and Councillor Kendal and I readily put on record my indebtedness to Councillor Kendal for his great support in managing our finances and help in setting our financial strategy so that Hampshire yet again is one of the most successful County Councils in the country.

I also pay tribute to our Director of Resources and her staff. They serve us well.

They say there are two things certain in this life - one is death - and the other is taxes. And when we were elected, the great power and great responsibility put in our hands was that authority to levy a tax on our fellow citizens.

Once all two tier counties have set their budget I remain confident that in Hampshire we shall sustain services amongst the best in the country and our council tax precept will again be the second lowest of any county.

In Hampshire we are asking on an average Band D property a precept of £1,200 i.e. £100 a month a household. It's not cheap but it buys a lot.

For our neighbours in West Sussex the ask is £1,317 and in Dorset and Surrey their precepts are both over £1,400 i.e. over £200 more than Hampshire.

I derive no pleasure in proposing a tax increase which is why for five years from 2010 at the start of the coalition Government we froze the County precept. Even with the increase proposed today of 5.99% the burden of Council Tax measured against inflation is actually £100 less than it would have been had we let it go up in line with average cost of living increases. I do recognise household budgets are stretched and I do not readily accept increasing tax is an easy solution so I am proud to be able to make that point that measured against inflation Hampshire's council tax is lower than it was eight years ago and almost certainly remains second lowest in the country.

Why do we need an increase?

This is clear.

1. Above all we have demographic pressures.

More children and more elderly people in particular, and much as we love our children and respect and cherish our senior citizens, they are the two sections of the community who understandably take more from the economy than they put in. The elderly have paid their taxes so earned their rights and the children we hope will grow up to make a positive contribution to the economy. I used to say there are 1000 extra people over the age of 80 every year in Hampshire - the figure now is 1000 extra over the age of 85 and a proportion of them will inevitably turn to the Council for assistance with their care needs. Many will not need help but many will. Added to that there are more young people with complex needs living into adulthood, who will

need expensive social care but not necessarily medical care. There is also school transport cost at some £30m.

2. Inflation is rearing its head again. We are budgeting for a 2% increase in salaries, and as with everyone else we have to pay for electricity and other utilities. Travel costs of staff go up as the price of fuel increases.

3. Government is reducing our RSG or revenue support grant. You will see measured against last year alone the Government RSG and business rate passed back to us is reduced from £156m to £138m. The Grant is scheduled to become zero, which is why it is tremendously important we get a Fair Funding Formula where Shire Counties do better and are treated more fairly and the Green Paper comes up with an acceptable way of funding social care.

So more demographic pressure - more inflation - less central support.

Some will criticise the Government and I have joined other County Leaders in alerting the Government to this pressure on councils and counties in particular but would I want the Chancellor of the Exchequer's task of meeting the needs of NHS, of Defence, of Police, of Agriculture, of Schools.

I am afraid Local government comes low down the list of those priorities and one of the problems is that we have been too successful at achieving more with less and we have indeed been very successful.

The Deputy Leader of Nottingham complained in public a few weeks ago that Hampshire had received a transitional grant of £18m to smooth the impact of the 2016/17 settlement which hit Shire Counties hard.

I had to point out that this was a one-off payment and whilst Nottingham is receiving Government support of £335 a head for its upper tier responsibilities, Hampshire is receiving just £100 a head. Try working out the £235 x 1.3million we would be receiving if we got the same per head as Nottingham. It's £305million more. Now I do not criticise Nottingham but I just ask them not to complain when we got £2.9m extra in the final funding settlement or got a one-off £18million. Social care costs Hampshire County Council significantly more than £1million every day.

I was pleased when the minority group leader came to our Cabinet meeting earlier this month - it's a pretty rare event. He said it was all decline and gloom and complained we have no strategy. I see he complains a 20% increase in our council tax over the last 4 years and presumably thinks it would be paradise if the Lib Dems controlled the Council. I wonder.

He demands to know if we would withdraw our suggestions for modest charges for some services like £1 for using a Household Waste Recycling site or £2 a year for issuing a Bus Pass. Just so we can keep all the Waste Sites and keep Community Transport.

Well I can assure him we will keep those services but I will still argue to Government that modest charges for some services is a way of keeping popular services and people tell us they support that.

We most certainly do have a strategy which, with a Council Tax lower than eight years ago in real terms and the second lowest in the country and services amongst the best, seems to be pretty successful. We plan ahead. We live within our means. We help elderly people lead independent lives as long as possible developing our Extra Care facilities – just look at the marvellous facility down the hill from here.

We do not run down our reserves as the Liberals and Labour allies would have us do and did 20 years ago and were rebuked by the District Auditor for having them dangerously low. Now we have them to use and help us carefully manage our budget.

We will not put up charges at the same scale as Eastleigh Borough Council do. If you want a burial plot in Eastleigh they thought nothing of putting charges up so now a plot costs over £900 whereas in next door Conservative controlled Test Valley it's under £500. Motto - don't die in Eastleigh.

We won't go speculating on the open market buying a Mercedes Dealership here or a hotel there because we've heard there is a good return. That's what they said about Icelandic Banks and the Southsea Bubble come to that.

We have invested in land - we have either sold off surplus office space or let it out as we make our property portfolio ever more efficient. We will share in the project to build houses for rent in Basingstoke at Manydown so we can help renters and first time buyers and key workers.

Above all we will not bury Hampshire residents in debt.

I could wish the nation was not still having to clear up the mess from 13 years of Labour but it is and rather than indulge in wishful thinking we have a clear and successful strategy to set a balanced budget.

Plan ahead. Live within our Means. Make sure we target help to the most needy.

Hampshire has a record and strategy for careful finances that compares with anywhere in the country. I commend the budget and move the recommendations.

Councillor Roy Perry
Leader

22 February 2018

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Item 9: Revenue Budget and Precept 2018/19 and Capital Programme 2018/19 to 2020/21 – o Debate Speech – Executive Member for Economic Development

Thank you Leader, Chairman,

Our Overall budget of £750.4 million is some £20million higher than last year. But after allowing for the maximum council tax increase permitted without a referendum, and allowing for the full government grant including the special allowance from them for Adult Social Care, we are still short by £26.4 million which will be taken from the Grant Equalisation Reserve to balance our expenditure on services.

At this point it is worth making two observations. The first is the increase, note increase, in expenditure on Services and the second is that we still have reserves with which to meet the shortfall.

So we are managing an increase in demand for our services, performing an increase in services not a decline.

We take a two year advanced approach to our budget strategy, so we know that next year the overall shortfall compared to last year would be £140million if we did nothing. We need to bear in mind that the present four year government settlement assumes that we increase council tax by the maximum. The remaining balance in our reserves will be required next year 2019/2020 to meet the continual shortfall in funding.

So to meet the continuing increase in demand for services we need to improve what we do and to utilise capital schemes to help reduce revenue expenditure as far as possible. This theme of increasing demand being well met through well managed utilisation of resources is that which this budget promotes as I shall now outline.

The increased demand in adult social care means more residents being looked after in their own homes, and in our residences. Recently we have committed another £26million to provide 90 more units for adults with learning disabilities in Basingstoke, New Milton, Aldershot, Eastleigh and Fareham and the first of these comes on stream in a matter of weeks.

The increased demand in children's services, apart from 18000 more school places, means more looked after children being cared for, increased by asylum seekers. Some Children need a safer place, those with severe learning difficulties can find a safe haven in the purpose built houses we have made for them. Those who need family intervention will be helped by the increase in children's social workers we are budgeting for. More social workers for children, not less. This year it is met by increasing their budget by £9.5million to allow also for Home to School Transport increasing demands which we are meeting. A one-off amount of £7.6m was needed for 2017/18.

We have used our Capital programme to increase investment in Libraries, Country Parks, and outdoor centres. I am advised we have committed some £17 million thus far. This will improve the visitor experience and bring in more income, making them self-sustaining instead of a revenue cost.

In the Highways department we now receive over 100,000 enquiries per year. That is ongoing so we need more, not less, electronic methods of dealing with it. The expansion of the IBC is essential.

And as housing and population increases, waste disposal is increasing too. This means more household waste and less commercial waste in our Energy plants thus reducing the income stream. So we need to recycle more and it is important to fund the Household Waste Recycling centres, not to reduce their capacity as the scare stories by some councillors have suggested. We have revised the PFI financing on our street lighting contract, so that over £1m per year in savings has been produced for the Highways Department thus reducing the need to find savings in waste recycling centres. This was done in keeping with the promise made in November to review all alternative options to ensure no Recycling Centres were closed. In the longer term I believe we can fund further improvements for users if we are allowed to charge just £1 per car but that is for Parliament to agree.

Further revisions of the amounts held in contingencies mean we can release a one-off amount of £3.5million.

A review of our longer term future capital needs noted the urgency for a number of schemes to be added to our capital programme. The longer term requirement is assessed as some £440 million. £218 million for Invest to save schemes, £133 million for Stand-alone schemes and some £55 million for the Schools Programme. The invest to save schemes are part of a very clear strategy to produce short stay hubs for Adult Social Care for re-abling clients before they return to their own homes. We shall remodel much of our nursing and residential estate to cater for increasing instances of dementia. The stand-alone schemes involve a number of infrastructure additions, for example an enhanced material's recovery facility. They must be based on a beneficial business case as must each of the Invest to Save Schemes and those business cases will be forthcoming in due course.

But the more urgent schemes of about £22million must be dealt with today. This is £16 million more than in the present Capital Programme.

And thanks to careful management of reserves we are able to find that today without resorting to borrowing.

The schemes are listed in Appendix 2 on page 67 and while all are important I want to mention three to illustrate the importance of an organisation like HCC having the capacity to make a rapid decision and to have the resources to implement it today.

Firstly the Redbridge flyover roundabout which is an important link between the docks in Southampton and the hinterland. Trade worth billions passes through there. The DfT and the Solent LEP were unhelpful. A total cost of £8 million and we seek your approval today.

Had the Solent combined authority come into being and taken responsibility for the A road's maintenance as was proposed, this extra £8million cost would have fallen on them without our reserves and would have eaten into their supposed £30million infrastructure allowance before they could have considered anything else. It is a clear example of why size counts and if we are to have a Combined Authority let it be Hampshire wide with a lot more than £30 million per year being devolved to it .

Secondly, a road bridge on the A35, the link between Lyndhurst and New Milton and Christchurch carrying thousands of vehicles per day, is in need of urgent rebuilding. A cost of £6million and we seek your approval today.

Thirdly, the Winchester Leisure complex which will house regional sporting facilities. We would contribute £1million to that due to the overall benefits it will bring to Hampshire sportsmen and women. And we seek your approval to that today.

You will also see listed various planned repairs, necessary highways management assets and last but not least £1.5 million to Basingstoke Canal in appendix 2. A total of £22 million of which £16million is new money requiring your approval today.

Members, in how many other Councils or Combined authorities do you think someone could stand up and ask for an extra £16 million to be used without having the cost of external borrowing?

Remember all of these activities when next someone says HCC is not sufficiently local.....

You are asked to confirm the amount of £35 million for higher return investment in Manydown which is in addition to the capital investment we described in the Medium Term Strategy paper in November. This will enable us to take freehold and develop this with our chosen partner, in a Special Purpose Vehicle so that we can build, sell, and retain properties to suit the rental market, both housing and retail. We met recently with the Housing Minister and told him that the total infrastructure cost could be £200 million. Basingstoke Council had put in a bid on our behalf for £10 million and we had put in a bid to the larger Housing Fund for £50 million. In the last month the smaller Bid of £10million has been approved. We expect to hear about the larger £50million bid in the summer. He was told that the amount of Infrastructure Grant would proportionately improve the viability of the project to enable more Affordable Homes to be built. Furthermore the two Local Authorities would be the housing developer ourselves through the Special Development Company. Therefore, we could bring the houses on stream faster than a private developer who would choose their timing to suit their shareholders rather than the need for housing. I believe he took those points well and I was not surprised thereafter to see the £10million Bid approved. Of course we cannot be certain how much of the larger Bid will be granted

We have also invested considerably over the last few years in our IBC. Without that investment much of the savings we are achieving today and proposing today, in the face of increase demand growth, could not occur. In addition to the savings, they are bringing in extra income, as Fire and Police become our partners in ever close working. Also Oxfordshire, and now three London metropolitan authorities are using our technology. Savings for them, income for us. I will also make mention of our partnership relationship with the Isle of Wight related to Childrens Services which is now entering its second term plus our new arrangement to provide Public Health through partnership working.

The IBC enables us to continue doing more while needing less staff and managers. That means more office space becoming available and that is providing a useful source of rental income as likeminded partners rent from us. Indeed the rental income now is more than that which we would receive if we had invested £20million on a new property at a 5% net return. Net return not gross. Most of the property-owning local authorities always quote Gross returns when boasting of their property investments which they have purchased with borrowings.

Our innovative investment in energy saving projects has already saved £29 million and will reduce our targeted carbon levels by nearly 40% now, not in 2025 as we originally envisaged. So we are setting a new target of 50% by 2025 which we would raise to 55% if it proves feasible to replace all our street lamps with LED lights. And we are working on that possibility. We are leading the way in providing for Electric Car charging points. We are ourselves now owners, and we shall save more than £200,000 per year on fuel costs for the investment of an extra £1million in electric cars over diesel. We are investigating Battery Storage technology to reduce further our energy bills as well as help with carbon reductions for a better environment. Although we have taken advantage of the cost benefits of PV we are mindful that the Energy Performance Projects relating to our buildings provide a 7 times better return on investment so we continue to concentrate on that.

Incidentally I have studied the 44 page policy of Brighton Council on carbon reduction targets. As you know they are a council led by our esteemed Green Party colleagues- so I thought that might be a good place to possibly learn more. Their overall target is a 4% per year reduction in Carbon which they have not quite achieved and, in any event, their target is somewhat below our already achieved target.

You can be justifiably proud of the results our small energy team in Property Services.

Our total Capital Programme now exceeds £882million in starts and commitments to 2021 as shown on page 129. The resourcing for the commitments for 2018 through 2021 are shown on page 134 with more detail in Appendix 1 on page 143. We are building a modern Hampshire , wonderful to live here, wonderful to work here.

Finally I want to report on the progress of our Treasury Management. This may seem a boring subject until you run out of reserves and have the Government Inspectors take over. Then it becomes an exciting subject for Members. Perhaps too exciting as some councils are now finding.

So you should turn to paragraph 13.4 on page 59 where you will note that although we have a long term need for cash , rather than earn low yields and risk Bail-in with Bank deposits, we are investing some £200 million of money not needed in the immediate future, in medium and long term investment assets. These are relatively secure Bonds and pooled property and pooled company share funds. Overall average net yield, again I stress NET yield, is 4.45% on £120million invested. In addition after allowing for the cost of purchase there is unrealised net capital gain of 2% as at November 2017. We shall invest a further £80 million in pooled equity and property funds and the probability is that the return should exceed the average thus far obtained as these investments should yield more than Bonds would, over the next year or so, particularly as rising interest rates will cause existing Bonds to fall in value. No investment is without risk but these pooled investments eliminate individual property valuation risks, tenancy bankruptcy risks, rental arrear risks, and so on.

On page 100 you will note we utilise internal borrowing to reduce the service costs wherever possible. On page 116 we show the value the external borrowings including long term PFI contracts at £464million. Our investments shown total £570million. An excess of £105.5 million over borrowings.

We should never have to be in a position to make emergency fixed-asset sales to meet sudden unexpected expenditure and this table shows why we would not have to do that.

So we continue to meet the increasing demands of our residents in social care, in school provision, in waste disposal, in leisure activities and in clean environmental matters.

We have a clear strategy and a balanced budget thanks to the efforts of a dedicated team of Officers. But this is also due to the Conservative Group's leadership which, in making hard choices, has led and supported these officers for the last 21 years. Today I second the budget recommendations and in doing so ask you to again show your leadership by agreeing to these recommendations which will enable us to continue to meet the rising demand for all our services.

Councillor Mel Kendal
Executive Member for Economic Development

22 February 2018

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