

AT A MEETING of the Cabinet of HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held at the Castle on 12 DECEMBER 2016:

Chairman:
p Councillor Roy Perry

Councillors:

p	Peter Edgar	p	Mel Kendal
p	Liz Fairhurst	p	Keith Mans
p	Andrew Gibson	p	Stephen Reid
p	Rob Humby	p	Patricia Stallard
p	Andrew Joy		

Also present with the agreement of the Chairman: Councillors Bennison, Bolton, Carter, England and Huxstep.

252. BROADCASTING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman announced that the meeting was being recorded for broadcast on the County Council's website and would be available for repeated viewing. The press and members of the public were also permitted to film and broadcast this meeting. Those remaining at the meeting were consenting to being filmed and recorded, and to the possible use of those images and recording for broadcasting purposes.

253. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All Cabinet Members were in attendance, apologies were received from Councillors Wheale and McNair-Scott.

254. 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 and, having regard to 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, having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 4 of the Code, whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 5 of the Code, considered whether it was appropriate to leave the meeting while the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

255. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2016 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

256. DEPUTATIONS

No deputation requests had been received.

257. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman noted that this was the final Cabinet meeting of 2016 and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. He highlighted news reports suggesting that the social care crisis would force the Prime Minister to increase Council Tax and expressed frustration that two weeks from the end of the year the local government finance settlement was not known.

A recent meeting with the Secretary of State was reported and the Chairman confirmed that he had received assurance that local government reorganisation would only proceed with the support of all concerned.

258. BUDGET SETTING AND PROVISIONAL CASH LIMITS 2017/18

The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Corporate Resources setting out the process and framework for the setting of the 2017/18 budget (Item 6 in the Minute Book).

The report was outlined and it was highlighted that the Council was reaching the culmination of a two year programme of which savings were on track and no additional savings were anticipated for the 2017/18 budget. The local government finance settlement was expected shortly and it was hoped that there would be some additional provision to fund social care. The efficiency plan agreed to by the County Council had been on the basis of a four year settlement from government and therefore it was possible to broadly anticipate the contents of the forthcoming announcements.

The budget monitoring elements of the report were brought to the attention of Cabinet, in particular the impact of pay and price inflation, the living wage and pension contributions. The position of the capital programme was also highlighted, with regards to the provision of school places and the proposal to allocate resources to support and facilitate applications for Free Schools. It was noted that Free Schools were funded from central government resources and therefore success in this would reduce the overall pressure on the County Council to meet the demand for school places.

Cabinet welcomed the report, noting in particular the success of the County Council's traded services and of planning for school places. It was also recognised that savings had been achieved and budget targets met, not as a result of being a particularly wealthy area or having a high Council Tax precept, but through thorough and early financial planning. This had furthermore enabled capital investment in areas such as school places and highways.

The recommendations within the report were proposed and agreed. The decision record is attached to these minutes as Appendix 1.

259. TRANSFORMATION TO 2017: REPORT NO. 9

The Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Executive regarding the Transformation to 2017 programme. (Item 7 in the Minute Book).

The level of cumulative savings by the County Council throughout the Transformation programmes was noted and the challenge of meeting the Transformation to 2017 targets was recognised. Cabinet heard that £10 million of savings had been secured since the previous report and it was expected that target savings for the end of 2016 would be achieved. £16 million of savings were needed in the final quarter, which was as expected. In consideration of departmental positions, it was noted that positive progress had been made in Adults Services and Children's Services to eliminate previously red (risk) areas.

The recommendations within the report were proposed and agreed. The decision record is attached to these minutes as Appendix 2.

260. SHAPING HAMPSHIRE –Q2 2016/17 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Executive regarding the performance of the County Council against the Shaping Hampshire strategic plan for 2013-17. (Item 8 in the Minute Book).

Hampshire's consistently high performance as detailed in the report was noted by Cabinet, with particular recognition for the success of Hampshire athletes at the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2016. Other performance highlights as well as key risks were referenced and future changes for performance management were outlined.

Cabinet agreed that this was a good point to refresh the system of performance management and self assessment to be able to take into account the organisational changes of recent years. Whilst recognising that some areas would not fully be in the control of the County Council, such as health related targets reliant on the NHS, it was agreed that performance was high and the direction of travel was a good one.

The recommendations within the report were proposed and agreed. The decision record is attached to these minutes as Appendix 3.

261. PROPOSALS FOR A SUB-NATIONAL TRANSPORT BODY (TRANSPORT FOR THE SOUTH EAST)

The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment to seek Cabinet's approval for the County Council to join a shadow Sub National Transport Body for the South East. (Item 9 in the Minute Book).

The likely role of the proposed Body, including the potential for it taking on a statutory role were set out and benefits of membership were highlighted. It was heard that the proposed membership consisted of the "South East 7" authorities,

with the addition of the cities of Portsmouth and Southampton and the Isle of Wight, with the potential to include the unitary authorities in the Thames Valley to cover a strategically significant area for transport.

Cabinet welcomed the proposals as an opportunity to work with partners and to give the South East region its own voice on key strategic infrastructure. It was proposed and agreed that Councillor Humby should be the County Council's representative on the Body.

With an amendment to reflect Councillor Humby's appointment, the recommendations within the report were proposed and agreed. The decision record is attached to these minutes as Appendix 4.

262. FUTURE APPROACH TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT

The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment regarding economic development and Business engagement. (Item 10 in the Minute Book).

The poor rate of economic development in the Solent area was highlighted by Cabinet as an increasing cause for concern. It was noted that this was now below the national average, having been above average at the turn of the century. The important role of the County Council and the LEP in facilitating economic development was recognised by Members and it was confirmed that feedback from the business community had indicated a desire to work more closely with the County Council. The breadth of factors influencing economic development were highlighted and the role for the proposed Cabinet sub-committee was set out.

The proposals were welcomed and it was noted that the County Council had sufficient scale to engage with significant business projects and achieve results. It was felt that the sub-committee would provide an opportunity for two way engagement with the business forum and would demonstrate the Council's positive relationship with business.

The recommendations within the report were proposed and agreed. The decision record is attached to these minutes as Appendix 5.

263. SUSTAINABILITY & TRANSFORMATION PLANS

[In relation to this item, Councillor Reid declared a non-pecuniary interest as the County Council's representative on the Hampshire Hospitals Foundation Trust. Councillor Gibson similarly declared a non-pecuniary interest as the County Council's representative on the Southampton University Hospital Trust.]

The Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Executive regarding work to progress NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STP) for Hampshire. (Item 11 in the Minute Book).

The report was introduced and the context and status of STPs as a means for efficiency planning in the health sector set out. It was confirmed that, as stated in the previous update, the report only set out the ongoing process and position of the STPs and future decisions relating to them would require and be subject to appropriate democratic input and scrutiny.

Cabinet acknowledged the update and expressed concern about the STPs in their current state, suggesting that there was no account being taken for population growth and that the measures identified amounted to a wish list, not an action plan.

With an addition to reflect the concerns of Cabinet at this stage, the recommendations within the report were proposed and agreed. The decision record is attached to these minutes as Appendix 6.

Chairman, 3 February 2017