

Public Document Pack

AT A MEETING of the County Council of HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held
at The Castle, Winchester on Thursday, 14th February, 2019

Chairman:

* Councillor Elaine Still

Councillor Charles Choudhary	* 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 Graham Burgess	* Councillor Keith Mans
* Councillor Adam Carew	* Councillor Alexis McEvoy
* Councillor Fran Carpenter	* Councillor Anna McNair Scott
* Councillor Christopher Carter	* Councillor Derek Mellor
* Councillor Roz Chadd	* Councillor Floss Mitchell
* Councillor Peter Chegwyn	* Councillor Rob Mocatta
* Councillor Daniel Clarke	* Councillor Kirsty North
* 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 MBE	* 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 MBE
* 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 Keith Chapman MBE and Michael Woodhall were also in attendance.

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121. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Martin Boiles, Ann Briggs, Charles Choudhary, Geoff Hockley, Rupert Kyrle and Stephen Philpott, Martin Tod and from Honorary Aldermen Phrynette Dickens and Felicity Hindson.

122. 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. It was taken as read that all Members with such an interest had so declared.

Councillor Mel Kendal also declared a personal interest in Item 9 on the Agenda (Revenue Budget and Precept 2019/20 and Capital Programme 2019/20 to 2021/22) by virtue of being a representative on the Board of the Manydown Garden Communities LLP.

123. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 29 November 2018 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

124. 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 much pleasure in congratulating Councillors Peter Edgar and Rhydian Vaughan on their MBE's announced in the New Year's Honours List. Councillor Edgar has also been given the Honorary Freedom of the Borough of Gosport in recognition of his many years of service to the people and Borough of Gosport.

The Chairman also invited Members to join her on Monday 11 March at 10am to watch the annual flag raising ceremony to celebrate Commonwealth Day and reminded Members about the Chairman's Concert at Winchester Cathedral on Saturday 27 April at 7.30pm.

In conclusion, the Chairman reported that in the unexpected absence of the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Charles Choudhary due to illness, Councillor Patricia Stallard would be providing support to her.

The Chairman's full report is appended to these Minutes.

125. **LEADER'S REPORT**

The Leader reported on the work of LGA Task and Finish Group on Fair Funding and Business Rate Review and of the South East England Councils, both of which are chaired by the Leader, and on meetings with the Parliamentary Under Secretary of the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Rishi Sunak, the Minister for Housing, Kit Malthouse and the Minister for Education, Anne Milton.

The Hampshire Commission 2050 continues its work with the next meeting on 22 February focussing on rural Hampshire. The Commission concludes its work in June this year.

The Leader had pleasure in reporting that the Lookout at Lepe Country Park has been shortlisted for a prestigious RICS Award.

In conclusion, the Leader notified the Council of his proposal to make former County Councillor, Robin McIntosh an Honorary Alderman at the Council's AGM on 17 May. The Council signified their support.

The Leader's full report is appended to these Minutes.

126. **DEPUTATIONS**

The Council received a deputation as detailed on the Summons.

127. **QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 16.1.1**

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

128. **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 County Council approved the following:

- a) That Ruth Snook be appointed as a Co-opted Member of the Children and Young People Select Committee, replacing Jane Longman representing Special Schools.
- b) That Councillor Wayne Irish replace Councillor David Simpson on the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education.

129. **REVENUE BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2019/20 AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2019/20 - 2021/22**

The Leader introduced the Revenue Budget and Precept for 2018/19 and the Capital Programme for the period 2019/20 to 2021/22 (Item 9 in the Minute Book), and moved the recommendations. Councillor Mel Kendal, the Executive Member for Economic Development presented the report.

A correction was noted to Appendix 8: Treasury Management Strategy Statement, page 124 of the Agenda pack – in the table detailing a balance sheet summary and forecast, the figures for Street Lighting PFI and Waste Management Contract have been transposed, which does not change the calculations in the table nor does it impact on any other numbers in the report.

In commending the revenue budget proposals the Executive Member for Economic Development highlighted revenue items linked to the development of capital investment priorities totalling £2.9m together with approvals associated with the Manydown development site; the Reserves Strategy underpinning the provision of funding for the transformation of services; the setting aside of contingency sums for use on a one-off basis later in the year totalling £19m, and outlined the County Council's approach to the mitigation of risk in regard to investments.

The Executive Member reported that social care services continue to be the highest risk area of the Council's budget. The Council's Reserve Strategy therefore provides time for the transformation of these services to be successfully planned, developed and delivered.

In regard to the Capital Programme, the Executive Member drew Members' attention to the recommendation for an increase to the Capital Programme of £32.869m for further infrastructure works and the by-pass at Botley. £491.6m for the delivery of schemes over the three year period 2019/20 to 2021/22 follows a revised Programme of £328.4m for 2018/19 providing a boost to the local economy, which represents a significant investment in Hampshire's

infrastructure.

In conclusion, the Executive Member reported that the Revenue Budget and the Capital Programme together enables the continuing provision of essential services to residents, and a stable platform to consider forthcoming challenges to 2021.

The full opening debate speech of the Executive Member for Economic Development is appended to these Minutes.

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 - 51

Councillors: John Bennison, Fred Birkett, Ray Bolton, Jackie Branson, Zillah Brooks, Graham Burgess, Adam Carew, Fran Carpenter, Christopher Carter, Roz Chadd, Rod Cooper, Roland Dibbs, Peter Edgar, Keith Evans, Liz Fairhurst, Steve Forster, Andrew Gibson, Jonathan Glen, Judith Grajewski, Marge Harvey, Pal Hayre, Edward Heron, Gary Hughes, Rob Humby, Roger Hexstep, Andrew Joy, David Keast, Mark Kemp-Gee, Mel Kendal, Peter Latham, Keith Mans, Alexis McEvoy, Anna McNair Scott, Derek Mellor, Floss Mitchell, Rob Mocatta, Kirsty North, Russell Oppenheimer, Neville Penman, Roy Perry, Lance Quantrill, Stephen Reid, Patricia Stallard, Robert Taylor, Tom Thacker, Michael Thierry, Rhydian Vaughan, Jan Warwick, Michael White, Bill Withers, Seán Woodward

AGAINST - 19

Councillors: Peter Chegwyn, Daniel Clarke, Adrian Collett, Mark Cooper, Tonia Craig, Alan Dowden, Jane Frankum, David Harrison, Dominic Hiscock, Keith House, Wayne Irish, Gavin James, Jackie Porter, Roger Price, David Simpson, Bruce Tennent, Mike Thornton, Malcolm Wade, Michael Westbrook,

ABSTAIN - 1

Councillor: Elaine Still.

RESOLVED:

A. REVENUE BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2019/20

That the County Council agree that:

- a) The Treasurer's report under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 (Appendix 6 to Annex A) be taken into account when the Council determines the budget and precept for 2019/20.
- b) The Revised Budget for 2018/19 set out in Appendix 1 to Annex A be approved.

- c) The Revenue Budget for 2019/20 as set out in Annex 1 to this Part I report be approved.
- d) Funding for one off revenue priorities linked to the development of capital investment totalling £2.9m as set out in paragraphs 5.26 to 5.46 of Annex A be approved.
- e) Funding for the future years cost of the Manydown development of up to £4.2m be approved to be met from general contingencies.
- f) Loan funding of up to £600,000 a year from 2018/19 to 2026/27 be made available to meet the running costs of the Manydown Garden Communities LLP to be met from general contingencies.
- g) The total net budget requirement for the general expenses of the County Council for the year beginning 1 April 2019, be £759,056,133.
- h) The council tax requirement for the County Council for the year beginning 1 April 2019, be £635,828,608.
- i) The County Council's band D council tax for the year beginning 1 April 2019 be £1,236.87, an increase of 2.99%.
- j) The County Council's council tax for the year beginning 1 April 2019 for properties in each tax band be:

	£
Band A	824.58
Band B	962.01
Band C	1,099.44
Band D	1,236.87
Band E	1,511.73
Band F	1,786.59
Band G	2,061.45
Band H	2,473.74

- k) Precepts be issued totalling £635,828,608 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 authority's area as determined by them and as set out overleaf:

Basingstoke and Deane	65,768.80
East Hampshire	50,461.90
Eastleigh	45,853.61
Fareham	42,909.60
Gosport	26,956.20
Hart	40,704.11
Havant	40,708.30
New Forest	71,074.40
Rushmoor	31,352.21

Test Valley	48,966.00
Winchester	49,307.47

- l) The Capital & Investment Strategy for 2019/20 (and the remainder of 2018/19) as set out in Appendix 7 to Annex A be approved.
- m) The Treasury Management Strategy for 2019/20 (and the remainder of 2018/19) as set out in Appendix 8 to Annex A be approved.
- n) An increase to the allocation targeting higher yields from £200m to £235m (as set out in the Treasury Management Strategy in Appendix 8 to Annex A) to increase the overall rate of return and the income contributed to the revenue budget, based on the stability of the County Council's cash balances be approved.
- o) Authority is delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Resources to manage the County Council's investments and borrowing according to the Treasury Management Strategy Statement as appropriate.

B. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2019/20 – 2021/22

That the County Council:

- p) Approve the increase in value of the M27 J10 scheme (design and development phase) from £1.5m to £4m.
- q) Approve an increase in the capital programme by £32.869m to meet the additional costs associated with further infrastructure works and the by-pass at Botley.
- r) Approve the capital programme for 2019/20 and the provisional programmes for 2020/21 and 2021/22 as set out in Annex 2 to the Cabinet Report.

130. HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL PAY STATEMENT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2019/20

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 2019/20 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 approve the Pay Statement for 2019/20 as detailed at the Appendix to this 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.

131. CONSIDERATION OF MOTION REFERRED BY COUNTY COUNCIL: BREXIT

The Council considered the report on Cabinet's consideration of a Motion regarding Brexit referred by full Council (Item 11 in the Minute Book).

In presenting the report, the Leader confirmed that the Motion was considered carefully by the Cabinet as part of the on-going work to prepare for leaving the European Union on 29 March, focusing on both the short and longer term issues to ensure that good local government services continue to be delivered. The Cabinet report set out various meetings held with Hampshire's Unitary Councils and the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) to ensure that issues are dealt with as well as they can be so that Hampshire continues to have a thriving economy and be a good place to live, which is part of the work being done by the Hampshire Commission 2050.

Debate focussed on potential traffic issues at the Port of Portsmouth and the implications for Hampshire police, the future for EU nationals living in the county and implications for local construction businesses, and the impact on highway schemes.

In summing up, the Leader highlighted the importance of focusing on the role of the County Council which is to deliver good local services for the residents of Hampshire whatever the position is post 29 March.

The recommendation was put to the vote. In accordance with Standing Order 22.3, 11 Members requested a recorded vote the outcome of which is as follows:

FOR - 45

Councillors: Ray Bolton, Jackie Branson, Ziliah Brooks, Graham Burgess, Adam Carew, Fran Carpenter, Chris Carter, Rod Cooper, Roland Dibbs, Peter Edgar, Keith Evans, Liz Fairhurst, Andrew Gibson, Jonathan Glen, Judith Grajewski, Pal Hayre, Edward Heron, Gary Hughes, Rob Humby, Roger Huxstep, Andrew Joy, David Keast, Mark Kemp-Gee, Mel Kendal, Peter Latham, Keith Mans, Alexi McEvoy, Anna McNair Scott, Derek Mellor, Floss Mitchell, Rob Mocatta, Kirsty North, Russell Oppenheimer, Neville Penman, Roy Perry, Lance Quantrill, Stephen Reid, Patricia Stallard, Robert Taylor, Michael Thierry, Rhydian Vaughan, Jan Warwick, Michael White, Bill Withers and Seán Woodward.

AGAINST - 18

Councillors: John Bennison, Peter Chegwyn, Daniel Clarke, Adrian Collett, Mark Cooper, Tonia Craig, Alan Dowden, Jane Frankum, David Harrison, Dominic Hiscock, Keith House, Wayne Irish, Gavin James, Jackie Porter, Roger Price, Mike Thornton, Malcolm Wade, Michael Westbrook.

ABSTAIN – 1

Councillor Elaine Still.

RESOLVED:

That the County Council notes the Report 'Brexit: The Potential Impact on the County Council's Resources and Services' considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 10 December 2108 set out in Appendix B to this Report and supports the recommendations contained within that Report.

132. NOTICE OF MOTION

The following Motion was moved by Councillor Keith House and seconded by Councillor Adrian Collett:

"Fair Funding for Hampshire People

1. Council notes £476million of loss of grant and budget cuts from central government in the last ten years and that with an ageing population and budget pressures of £30m each year over and above maximum council tax increases allowed by Government, the Council has twice had reported to it that its finances are not sustainable in the medium-term. Council further notes the backlog of road repairs estimated at £285million, in addition to the backlog on pavement and bridge repairs.
2. Council agrees that central government has an obligation to provide fair funding for local government to include the full effects of an ageing population, the real cost pressures on adult social care, children's services and the need for a 21st century infrastructure.
3. Council resolves to campaign for a restoration of fair funding now that the Prime Minister has determined that 'austerity is over' and to make good underfunding in recent years."

The following Amendment was submitted in accordance with Standing Order 19.1 which was proposed by Councillor Keith Mans and seconded by Councillor Stephen Reid:

Text in italics with grey background = add words

Text with strikethrough = delete words

1. Council notes £476million of loss of grant and budget cuts from central government in the last ten years *due to the coalition Government and present Government having to address the ongoing problems arising from the banking crash of 2008, during the period of the previous Labour administration, and the need to bring the nation's finances back in to order.* ~~and that~~ Council recognises with an ageing population *at the same time as significant increases in the number of vulnerable children coming in to care* and budget pressures of £30m each year over and above maximum council tax increases allowed by Government, the Council has twice had reported

to it that its finances are not sustainable in the medium-term. Council further notes the backlog of road repairs estimated at £285million, in addition to the backlog on pavement and bridge repairs *and will seek to address that problem whilst recognising care of children will always be a priority and continue to have first call on available resources.*

2. Council agrees that central *local government including in the shire counties* has an obligation to provide a need for a fair funding formula for local government to include the full effects of an ageing population, the real cost pressures on adult social care, children's services and the need for a 21st century infrastructure.
3. Council resolves to *continue to support the national* campaign for a restoration of "fair funding" for local government recognising that the Prime Minister has determined that 'austerity is over' as a result of sound management of the national economy and urges the Government to make good underfunding in recent years as far as is possible consistent with the continued sound management of the national economy.

Councillor House, as Proposer of the Motion indicated his support for the Amendment which was put to the vote. A majority of the Members present supported the Amended Motion and it was therefore carried.

RESOLVED:

1. Council notes £476million of loss of grant and budget cuts from central government in the last ten years due to the coalition Government and present Government having to address the ongoing problems arising from the banking crash of 2008, during the period of the previous Labour administration, and the need to bring the nation's finances back in to order. Council recognises with an ageing population at the same time as significant increases in the number of vulnerable children coming in to care and budget pressures of £30m each year over and above maximum council tax increases allowed by Government, the Council has twice had reported to it that its finances are not sustainable in the medium-term. Council further notes the backlog of road repairs estimated at £285million, in addition to the backlog on pavement and bridge repairs and will seek to address that problem whilst recognising care of children will always be a priority and continue to have first call on available resources.
2. Council agrees that local government including in the shire counties has a need for a fair funding formula include the full effects of an ageing population, the real cost pressures on adult social care, children's services and the need for a 21st century infrastructure.
3. Council resolves to continue to support the national campaign for a restoration of "fair funding" for local government recognising that the Prime Minister has determined that 'austerity is over' as a result of sound management of the national economy and urges the Government to make good underfunding in recent years as far as is possible consistent with the continued sound management of the national economy.

133. 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 as presented by Councillor Chris Carter in his capacity as Chairman of the Fire Authority.

134. 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.

135. EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Council received the reports of the following Executive Members:

a) Executive Member for Public Health

* Smoking Cessation Service

Announcement by the Leader:

The Leader gave notice of his intention to stand down as Leader of the Council at the Council's Annual General Meeting on 17 May 2019. The Leader reported that this would be at the halfway point of this Administration which would give his successor two clear years before the County Council's Election in 2021.

The Leader paid tribute to everyone associated with the County Council, the officers, and the Members, and extended his thanks to his wife who has supported him throughout his 50 years in public service.

The meeting closed at 2.50pm.

Chairman,

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COUNTY COUNCIL 14 FEBRUARY 2019

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

May I welcome on your behalf those Honorary Aldermen who have graced us with their presence today: Honorary Alderman Keith Chapman MBE and Michael Woodhall.

Thank you for your support.

I would like to start by congratulating Councillor Peter Edgar and Councillor Rhydian Vaughan for their well-deserved MBE's announced in the New Year's Honours List. Peter received his for services to Education and to the community in Gosport. And, Rhydian for his Public and Political service.

And, for those of you that are not already aware at an Extraordinary Meeting on Wednesday 6 February, Gosport Borough Council gave Cllr Peter Edgar the Honorary Freedom of the Borough of Gosport in recognition of his eminent services to the people and Borough of Gosport over many years.

Congratulations Peter and Rhydian.

Members, you have received a list of the engagements your Vice Chairman and I have attended on your behalf. Since we have a particularly busy agenda, I will not go into any detail on this occasion.

Other News

Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth

Please join me on Monday 11 March at 10am to watch the well-established annual ceremony when we raise the flag to celebrate Commonwealth Day.

Chairman's Concert

You have already received an invitation to my Chairman's concert at Winchester Cathedral on Saturday 27 April at 7.30pm. I very much hope you will join me for what promises to be a memorable evening. The programme will include Shostakovich's Symphony No. 10 and Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue. Tickets are £15, and £10 for concessions, and can be obtained from Jill Larner, Head of Hampshire Music Service.

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COUNTY COUNCIL 14 FEBRUARY 2019

LEADER'S REPORT

The February meeting of County Council is always the most important other than the Annual General Meeting.

It is when we set the Council Tax precept. More on that later. Members are aware that I sit on the Local Government Association (LGA) Task and Finish Group on Fair Funding and Business Rate Review.

At those meetings I seek to push for more transparency and clarity in local government finance as well as a fair deal for shire counties. The present system anything but clear and simple. There was a telling letter in the FT a few weeks ago referring to the recent purchase of a house in London for £40million on which the council tax paid would be less than on a one bedroomed flat in Dorset. The letter finished "just saying". Of course, that is the problem – it is easy to identify the problem, the difficulty is the solution. Scotland is considering a tourist tax. In the USA there are local state taxes. It is easy to find flaws in all alternatives but it is clear the present system cannot continue much more.

The Parliamentary Under Secretary at the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), Rishi Sunak spoke recently to the County Councils Network (CCN) and I am confident he is alert to the issues faced by County Councils with huge pressures coming from adult social care and children's social care. Although he is a Yorkshire MP, Rishi Sunak's family live in Hampshire and he started his education at Stroud School, Romsey.

I get the impression he is open to our suggestion on it being better to have a small charge for issuing bus passes e.g. £2 a year to help retain a bus service. Pointless having a free pass if there is no bus, or a small charge at a Waste Recycling Centre so that we can retain all centres rather than no charge but only half the Centres. However, that remains work in progress. Criticism is easy; finding solutions is somewhat harder.

As Chairman of South East England Councils (SEEC), I have had meetings with Housing Minister, Kit Malthouse who referred positively to the work we are doing at Manydown, near Basingstoke. That is a tremendous investment by the County Council and should produce not only huge financial dividends but also much needed quality housing. Our Strategic Land Investment projects are anticipated to generate in the order of £250million of net receipts for the County Council in the period up to 2029/30.

I have also met with Anne Milton, the Schools Minister who is very impressed by the work of FE Colleges and 6th Form Colleges in Hampshire. As am I – and I congratulate Peter Symonds in particular, that has had 60 students gain Oxbridge places this year. Other colleges have also done well and I think their successes are a tribute to the Hampshire primary and secondary schools that prepare their students.

The work of the Hampshire Commission 2050 continues. The next session on 22 February will be dedicated to rural Hampshire. A visit to the IBM European Research Laboratory at Hursley has been arranged and we will also be receiving reports from young people about their aspirations. The Commission is due to conclude its work in June this year and a report of its findings will be prepared.

I was delighted to learn from our Senior Architect, Mr Bob Wallbridge that the Lookout at Lepe Country Park has been shortlisted for a prestigious RICS Award. If you have not yet visited the Lookout – do. It is a marvellous facility and all part of our investment strategy to make the country parks financially sustainable.

Lepe, Gosport, Fareham and Hayling Island will of course be very much in our minds in June this year as we commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings launched from Hampshire and very much masterminded from Hampshire.

We will hear more on Brexit later in the meeting, which could be the last meeting before the UK leaves the European Union. In the meantime, I can confirm that a Hampshire Consortium will receive £2.5m of funding from the European Social Fund.

I also give notice of the proposal to make former County Councillor, Robin McIntosh an Honorary Alderman at the Council's Annual General Meeting in May. Robin served for 16 years and was a very distinguished Chairman of the Council's Regulatory Committee.

END.

[check on delivery]

COUNTY COUNCIL 14 FEBRUARY 2014

BUDGET SPEECH

I begin by thanking all the officers for their hard work in us being able to consider a sound financial budget today. In particular, the County Treasurer has performed her onerous task admirably and deserves this Council's thanks.

The deliberate strategy that the County Council has followed to date for dealing with grant reductions and the removal of funding that was historically provided to cover inflation, coupled with continued demand pressures over the last decade, is well known to members. In summary it involves planning ahead of time, through a two yearly cycle, releasing resources in advance of need and using those resources to help fund transformational change.

This strategy has served the County Council, and more particularly, its services and community well, as it has delivered transformation programmes on time and on budget with maximum planning and minimum disruption to services. Put simply, it is an approach that has ensured Hampshire County Council has continued to avoid the worst effects of funding reductions that have started to adversely affect some other local authorities.

This report also considers a number of revenue items that are linked to the development of capital investment priorities totalling £2.9m that are outlined for approval, together with other approvals associated with the Manydown development site.

The demographic pressures within social care departments and the sustained pressure on social care spending means that these services continue to be the highest risk and most volatile area of the County Council's budget.

The County Council's Reserves Strategy, which is set out in Appendix 5 of the report to Cabinet, continues to be one of the key factors that underpins our ability not only to provide funding for transformation of services, but also to give the time for the changes to be successfully planned, developed and safely implemented within social care departments.

Contingency sums are set aside for a variety of purposes and it is only now at this later stage in the year that these resources can be deployed for other purposes with greater certainty. This amounts to £12.0m, which together with the £7.0m available from capital financing and interest on balances gives a grand total of £19.0m that can be used on a one-off basis.

It is proposed that this total of £19.0m is used for the following items:

- £2.9m. of funding for the development of capital investment priorities.
- £1.0m to the Investment Risk Reserve as we increase the amount invested in pooled funds and other long term investments. to £235m.

- The balance of £15.1m to the GER to begin to make provision for the period beyond 2020 to support the next two-year savings cycle and to provide cash flow support to the Transformation to 2021.

The County Council has made investments in property, equities and government bonds, as well as long term investments with other Local Authorities. The principle mitigation for risk is ensuring that investments in non-cash assets are held as long-term investments. This will enable the initial costs of any investment and any periods of falling capital values to be overcome. In order to be managed as long-term investments the amounts invested need to be taken from the County Council's most stable cash balances. The allocation of £235m has been based on half of the Council's forecast future minimum balance.

This is a very different approach to that used by some other councils who borrow at low PWLB rates and hope to make a profit on investing in individual properties outside of their area. This practice is not dissimilar to the risky investment practice undertaken by Banks prior to 2007 when they used bonds to coupon clip deposit rates.

Another sensible avenue that the County Council is currently pursuing in two cases is to become even more active and influential in the market of delivering homes across the county on some of its key sites. This will offer the County Council the advantage of considering whether it wishes to benefit from capital or revenue receipts from residential assets or combinations of the two depending on individual sites and its own circumstances at the time.

Turning to the Capital Programme there is a late recommendation to approve an increase in the capital programme by £32.869m to meet the additional costs associated with further infrastructure works and the by-pass at Botley.

The capital programme delivers schemes totalling a further £491.6 million over the three years from 2019/20 to 2021/22. This follows a revised programme of £328.4million for 2018/19, providing a total capital programme of over £850 million including the Botley by pass, over the four years, providing a big boost for the local economy through jobs and construction materials. This is a very significant investment in the infrastructure of Hampshire. It will provide:

- £160 million of investment in new and extended school buildings in Hampshire in the period 2019/20 to 2021/22 to ensure there is a school place for every child in Hampshire
- £122 million for structural maintenance and improvement of roads and bridges in Hampshire over the next three years
- £72 million for integrated transport schemes in addition to the Botley by pass including £9 million specifically focused on walking and cycling improvements
- £94 million for major improvement of school and other County Council buildings over the next three years.

The revenue budget and the capital programme together continue to provide essential services to residents of Hampshire. The budget provides a stable basis upon which to consider further the challenges of the next period to 2021.

This budget is sound.

This county council's finances at present are sound.

Let us keep it that way by approving this revenue budget and the capital programme.

Councillor Mel Kendal
Executive Member for Economic Development

[check on delivery]

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