

HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Association meeting held at Fareham Borough Council on 29 September 2006 at 10.00 am.

Basingstoke and Deane	Councillor Andrew Finney Gordon Holdcroft (Chief Executive)
East Hampshire	Councillor Elizabeth Cartwright Will Godfrey (Chief Executive)
Eastleigh	Councillor David Airey Councillor Anne Winstanley Bernie Topham (Chief Executive)
Fareham	Councillor Sean Woodward Alan Davies (Chief Executive)
Gosport	Councillor Peter Langdon Ian Lycett (Chief Executive)
Hampshire	Councillor Alan Rice Councillor Mike Woodhall Chris Lawrence-Pietroni (Head of Policy) Alan Hagger (Supporting People Manager) Paul Archer (Environment Department)
Hart	Councillor David Neighbour Geoff Bonner (Chief Executive)
Havant	Gwen Andrews (Chief Executive)
New Forest	Councillor Mel Kendal (Vice-Chairman) Dave Yates (Chief Executive)
Portsmouth	Councillor Lee Mason Councillor Jim Patey
Rushmoor	Councillor Ronald Dibbs John Rundle (Assistant Head of Strategy and Communications)
Southampton	Mike Thomas (Waste Disposal/Recycling Team Leader)
Test Valley	Councillor Ian Carr Roger Tetstall (Chief Executive)
Winchester	Councillor Fred Allgood Councillor George Beckett Simon Eden (Chief Executive)

Hampshire Association of Parish and Town Councils	Councillor David Bidwell Stephen Lugg (Director)
Eastleigh Community Services	Ken Dufton (Chief Executive)
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Government Association	Nick Goulder (Director) Diane Allen (PA to Director)
New Forest National Park Authority	Lindsey Cornish (Chief Executive)

Also in attendance:

Project Integra	Steve Read
South East Employers	Mark Palmer

35.06 WELCOME

The Mayor of Fareham, Councillor John Bryant, welcomed all those present to the meeting. He also invited attendees to tour the Customer Services Centre following the meeting.

36.06 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors John Leek and Harry Robinson (Basingstoke and Deane); Councillor Ferris Cowper (East Hants); Councillor Keith House (Eastleigh); Sue Dovey (Community Action Hampshire); Cathy Evans (GOSE); Councillor Mark Hook (Gosport); Councillors Adrian Collett and Ken Thornber (Hampshire); Councillor Michael Cartwright and John Bonney (Hampshire Fire and Rescue); Councillors Roland Dibbs and David Gillett (Havant); Councillors Andy Sutton; Diana Tuson and Jilly Wood (Isle of Wight); Councillor Maureen Holding (New Forest); Councillor Peter Moyle (Rushmoor); Councillor Adrian Vinson (Southampton); Councillor Tony Jackson (Test Valley); Councillor George Hollingbery (Winchester).

37.06 CHAIRMAN

In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Mel Kendal, took the chair for the meeting.

38.06 MINUTES

The minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 2 June were agreed with one change to minute 27.06 (Empty Homes). The minute now reads:

...

“● The need to address the lack of Council Tax incentive to bring empty properties back into use.”

...

Arising from the minutes Hampshire queried whether the survey into the number of empty homes had commenced. Nick Goulder would ask the Strategic Housing Officers' Group about this. East Hampshire reported that it had had some success in releasing some empty homes back into use.

39.06 **BUILDING CAPACITY IN OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY**

Councillor Fred Allgood (Winchester) Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Capacity Building Project Management Group spoke about its work. He thanked those officers from HIOW who had attended the Group. He felt that the work of the Group would be of benefit to many organisations. It was important that scrutiny was a success. He also acknowledged Mark Palmer of South East Employers' work on scrutiny.

The Chairman introduced Mark Palmer who gave a presentation on the scrutiny capacity-building project which had been a joint initiative between HIOW and ACTVaR. The Local Government White Paper was expected to be published on 19 October with enhanced scrutiny and accountability being major themes. Consideration was also given to a report produced by Mark Palmer and Nick Goulder.

Mr Palmer's presentation focussed on:

- What the capacity building programme was all about
- Identification of key overview and scrutiny challenges
- Role profile for Scrutiny Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen
- The six training modules
- Overview and scrutiny member peers
- The content of the DVD "What has Scrutiny Ever Done for Us?"
- Promotion, marketing and evaluation

Mr Palmer highlighted the importance of Scrutiny and drew attention to the new Community Call for Action power in relation to crime and disorder matters.

Hampshire alluded to the strengths of the committee system and raised concerns about the diminishing role of "back benchers" as a result of decision-making by a small Executive. The County suggested that this could partially be addressed by Scrutiny Committees undertaking policy development.

Gosport asked about the relevance of scrutiny to councils with alternative arrangements, and generally questioned the cost of scrutiny. Mr Palmer assured Members of the relevance and gave as an example Brighton and Hove.

Hampshire Association of Town and Parish Councils asked those present to support the Quality Parish Scheme.

Rushmoor highlighted concerns about the Community Call for Action.

Eastleigh questioned the powers which Scrutiny Committees would have if an issue was not resolved following a Community Call for Action.

Mark Palmer addressed these questions and concerns.

The Chairman thanked Mark Palmer for his presentation and in summing up voiced Members' concerns over the resource-intensity of excessive scrutiny.

RESOLVED

That South East Employers and participating authorities be thanked for developing this innovative project.

40.06 WASTE MANAGEMENT

The Chairman introduced Gordon Holdcroft, Chief Executive of Basingstoke and Deane who ran through a report produced by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Project Integra Working Group. Mr Holdcroft highlighted the costs involved and importance of agreeing a way forward jointly. He thanked Steve Read (Project Integra) and Paul Archer (Hampshire) for putting the report together.

The report gave details of the background to waste management and the key objectives; cluster working and the roles of the Strategic Board, central support and partners in delivering the key objectives.

A discussion took place on the content of the report.

Councillor Kendal explained that the review of Project Integra had arisen out of a Hampshire Scrutiny Select Committee. He highlighted and sought support for the recommendations.

Eastleigh had concerns over out of date information in the Annex to the report. The Borough Council would like to see more effort put into waste reduction and re-use. Councillor Kendal said that these concerns should be raised at the Project Integra Board.

Hart and Eastleigh raised questions about cluster-working. Councillor Kendal explained that Portsmouth had come up with the idea of clusters. Rushmoor wanted clusters to be open and not restrictive.

Gosport asked about the idea of a single authority approach for both disposal and collection. Paul Archer advised that from a technical point of view a single integrated authority would be beneficial. However Councillor Kendal pointed out that there would be difficulties around local democracy and management. Steve Read mentioned that the only place in England to take this approach was Shropshire.

A constitution would be produced for the Project Integra Board and this would need to be approved by each local participating authority.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the proposals in the paper approved by the Chief Executives Group and the Project Integra Management Board be noted; and

- (2) That the proposals in the report for the evolution of the Project Integra partnership be endorsed with specific agreement:
 - (a) That the Project Integra Board, in continued consultation with the Chief Executives' Group, oversees the structural and constitutional review of the partnership and presents a revised Constitution to all partners for ratification no later than January 2007; and
 - (b) In the meantime, partners continue to develop clusters as envisaged in the document.

41.06 **IMPROVEMENT**

Consideration was given to a report by the Director on this subject which outlined the background to and details of the consortium bid for money from the DCLG/LGA national Improvement Board and its approval of the bid. The report also gave details of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Improvement Board.

Nick Goulder reported that Government Office advised that the money would be with Hampshire County Council (acting as banker) by 1 October. The possibility of virement of funds between the various items in the bid had been agreed. The Improvement Officer post had been advertised. Mr Goulder thanked Councillor Kendal for his help in acquiring the funds.

A meeting of the HIOW Improvement Board would be held following the Association meeting.

RESOLVED

That the DCLG/LGA national Improvement Board's decision to approve the HIOW Consortium Bid of £1,310,000 2006-2008 be welcomed.

42.06 **SUPPORTING PEOPLE**

The Chairman introduced Alan Hagger, County Manager, Supporting People at Hampshire County Council.

Mr Hagger introduced his report which focussed on the Supporting People Audit Inspection which would commence in December 2006. The report also set out what the inspection would involve, the impact of the inspection report, the work undertaken to date and the role of HIOW regarding Supporting People. Funding for unitary authorities was separate but there was close collaboration via a Cross Authority Group.

The Supporting People Team hoped that the Inspectors' report would positively reflect the achievements of the Supporting People partnership. It would be important to ensure that the inspection was a success. Mr Hagger would be happy to further brief members on the progress of the programme in November if it was felt to be beneficial.

Eastleigh confirmed that the County Core Group had created a very good partnership for Supporting People. New Forest felt it would be important to impress upon the Auditors that Hampshire's Supporting People project had led the way nationally.

RESOLVED

That Members note that the Supporting People inspection would require the co-operation of County and District Councils in Hampshire.

43.06 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Consideration was given to a report by the Outside Bodies' Appointments Panel on this subject.

The Director updated those present on appointments made between agenda despatch and the meeting. He clarified that District Councils should pay their Members' expenses when attending Outside Bodies. He also asked for a District Council representative to act as a deputy to Councillor Ian Carr on the Hampshire Pensions Fund Panel.

RESOLVED

That District Council representation on Outside Bodies as set out in the Annex to the report be approved, with the inclusion of Councillor John Leek on the Hampshire Economic Partnership and Councillor Ray Love on the Hampshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

44.06 NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY - ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Lindsey Cornish, Chief Executive of the New Forest National Park Authority, addressed the meeting. Consideration was also given to a report by the Director on this subject.

RESOLVED

That the New Forest National Park Authority be invited to join the Association as an Associate Member.

45.06 "FIVE MINUTE SLOT" AND FUTURE AGENDA

Consideration was given to a report by the Director which set out potential future matters for discussion.

Councillor Roland Dibbs of Rushmoor suggested that, in the light of the delays to the survey, the Travellers' report be put back to January.

Councillor Mike Woodhall of Hampshire suggested an item on the Lyons Report and also a report on the role of Quality Parish Councils. Winchester supported this in conjunction with the neighbourhood agenda.

The report drew attention to the suggestion that the Chairman and Chief Executive of the Hampshire Primary Care Trust (PCT) had offered to attend a meeting of the Association, possibly on this occasion. Nick Goulder outlined the PCT's proposals for local joint working.

Dave Yates and Bernie Topham also updated those present following a meeting with the Hampshire PCT.

46.06 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Association would be held on Friday 24 November at 10.00 am in the Council Chamber at Portsmouth Guildhall.