

HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

13 June 2008

THE ASSOCIATION'S ACTION PLAN 2008-2009 AND ANNUAL REPORT

Report by the Director

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That the Action Plan be approved for consultation with inter-authority groups and partner organisations; and
 - (2) That the draft Annual Report be amended on the basis of today's meeting and published on the Association's website.
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BACKGROUND

1. At the Annual Meeting members are asked to agree main headings for action in the coming year. Members agree the work of the Association in the light of the Association's objectives bearing in mind the review of work over the past year. The Annual Report gives a brief review of the work of the Association. The draft is set out in the Annex and will need to be updated following this meeting. Objectives are set out below.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION

2. The objectives of the Association are:-
 - To provide a means for facilitating co-operation between the constituent authorities;
 - To promote the interests of local government in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight;
 - To assist member authorities in the effective performance of their duties and functions;
 - To pursue issues of common concern to member authorities and to represent their joint interests to other bodies;
 - To develop effective relationships with regional organisations; and
 - To provide a forum for exchange of ideas and experience across member authorities.
3. The Association works closely with the Local Government Association (LGA) at national level, the Regional Assembly and Government Office at regional level and other Hampshire/Isle of Wight organisations locally.

PROPOSED ACTION PLAN 2008-2009

4. It is proposed that Member authorities continue to work together to protect the interests of Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight as the new performance assessment regime (Comprehensive Area Assessment - CAA) is introduced and as the new Local Area Agreements (LAAs) "bed in". This year it will be particularly important to ensure

that the Association adds value for member authorities alongside three separate developments in joint working:

- (a) The Hampshire authorities' proposed arrangements for a Hampshire Senate
- (b) The Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH)
- (c) The South East region local authorities' development of joint working resulting from the Government's sub-national review of economic development and regeneration.

5. Against this background it is proposed that the priorities for 2008-2009 should be:

(1) **Improvement**

Continue the drive for improvement and efficiency through the work of the Improvement Board.

Lead Chief Executive: Will Godfrey.

Including: **Waste**

Consider the implications of any changes emerging from the Improvement Board's project on waste collection efficiencies for existing partnership arrangements.

Lead: Tony Curtis

Customer Services

Support the Customer Services Strategic Group (and related joint groups such as the Community Safety Strategic Systems Group) to develop joint working on customer service and insight into customers' needs.

Lead: Roger Tetstall

(2) **Comprehensive Area Assessment**

Prepare for CAA, building on the lessons of the "learning set" involving Hampshire County, New Forest and Basingstoke and Deane

District Lead Chief Executives: Roger Tetstall and Ian Lycett.

(3) **Local Area Agreements and Multi-Area Agreements**

The Association has supported the LGA's work with Government to (a) identify funding streams which flow into Hampshire and Isle of Wight and (b) develop LAAs which improve local democratic input so that resources are allocated efficiently to local priorities. In the mass of work around the Hampshire, Portsmouth, Isle of Wight and Southampton LAAs, the priority will be to ensure that the process does not once again become so bureaucratic that the original aim is lost.

The same priority applies to developing multi-area agreements.

(4) **Climate Change**

Work with PUSH and all member authorities to develop joint working on measures to combat climate change and prepare for its consequences.

Lead Chief Executive: Sandy Hopkins.

(5) **Community Engagement**

Draw together the various strands of work on community engagement and the role of the constituency member so that Members can consider the case for further learning and joint work, building on such initiatives as the SE Neighbourhood Training and Resource Centre hosted by Portsmouth City Council, taking in new Government thinking e.g. expected White Paper promoting empowerment and active citizenship and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

(6) **Sub-National Review of Economic Development**

Consider developments arising from the Sub-National Review and work together to ensure that the Government's intentions/promises concerning devolution are achieved in the context of the South East.- *update following agenda item 6*

Lead Chief Executive: Simon Eden.

(7) **Culture/Arts**

Develop better joint working and exchange of best practice in the fields of culture and the arts, particularly looking at regeneration and economic development.

District Lead Chief Executives: Simon Eden and Roger Tetstall
with Yinnon Ezra (Hampshire County Council)

(8) **Community Safety**

(a) Consider the potential for better joint working between the local authorities and the Local Criminal Justice Board, taking account of the anticipated Policing Green Paper and the "Crime and Communities" Review.

(b) Follow through experience of the single non-emergency number 101 both in community safety and customer service.

(c) Following the Home Office funding cuts of 2007/8, ensure that joint working generally in community safety is as robust as possible.

Lead Chief Executives:

Community Safety: Andrew Lloyd/Sandy Hopkins.

Customer Service: Roger Tetstall

(9) **Funding**

Continue to work with the LGA at national level to press for adequate funding - particularly over such issues as concessionary fares - working through the Chief Financial Officers' Group.

(10) **Review of Partnership Working**

In the light of developments outlined in paragraph 4, particularly the development of Leaders' meetings through the Hampshire Senate, the Chief Executives' Group proposes to review the way the Association works at Member and officer levels. As part of the discussions about the Hampshire Senate, a wider review of partnerships will be required.

(11) **Working with the LGA at national level**

Paul Coen, Chief Executive of the LGA, plans to attend the Association meeting in November 2008. Several member authorities are actively working with the LGA to develop local government in line with the Central/Local "concordat" which has the potential to lead to more devolution to local authorities. The Association will aim to share experience with this across Hampshire and Isle of Wight, particularly focusing on the current legislative programme.

ANNUAL REPORT

6. The draft Annual Report, set out in the Annex, outlines the work of the Association over the past year. Subject to comments by Members, it is recommended that this Annual Report be published (as required by the Association's Constitution) on the Association's website.

NICK GOULDER
Director

Date: 2 June 2008

Annex: 1

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HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2007 - 2008

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

- ◆ At national level the LGA signed a hopeful concordat with central government promising more freedom for local government in line with the Local Government White Paper 2006.
- ◆ Experience at local level was less hopeful. The Home Office abandoned the single non-emergency number 101 and introduced other last minute funding cuts. Funding of concessionary fares proved particularly difficult. On the positive side the new Local Area Agreements from April 2008 promise “fewer targets and more flexibility”.
- ◆ Against a background of strong performance by member authorities, we continued to prepare for a revised performance assessment regime focusing on “place” to start in 2009.
- ◆ Tackling climate change and its impact moved to the top of the agenda for all authorities.

THE ASSOCIATION

1. The Association represents the 15 local authorities of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, the Police Authority, the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority and the New Forest National Park Authority. The Association is guided by regular meetings of leading elected councillors from all 18 member authorities and parish associations. Also invited to these meetings are partner organisations and the community sector. These meetings provide a forum and mechanism for the local authorities in this sub-region of the South East to work together.
2. The Association works through networks of inter-authority staff. Some 34 groups listed on our website include Planning and Transport Chief Officers, Strategic Housing, Chief Finance Officers and Chief Environmental Health Officers. These inter-authority groups:
 - provide policy management and support for Members
 - report to Association meetings when necessary
 - consider the impact of new legislation and other changes
 - develop contacts with regional bodies
 - help the Association look after the interests of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

Their work is co-ordinated by the Association through the Chief Executives’ Group. The Chief Executives’ Group appoints lead Chief Executives to head up work in the key areas of achievement for the Association. Details are given on our website and in Appendix 1.
3. The extensive engagement of individual Members, officers and in particular “Lead Chief Executives” has meant that the Association’s direct permanent staff resources have remained small. Contract staff have been employed to drive forward the Improvement Board’s work -

fully funded by Government capacity-building funds allocated following the Association's bid led by East Hampshire and the Chairman of the Improvement Board, Councillor Mel Kendal (New Forest).

4. As a result of an expanding membership base the membership subscription in 2007 was less in absolute terms than it was when the Association was established in 1997 (£4,200 for a District Council compared to £4,800 in 1997). This is an unusual achievement but our financial reserves are now at an unsustainably low level and this situation will need to be addressed next year.

REVIEW OF 2007-2008

5. The Association set its Action Plan for the year at the Annual Meeting in June 2007. The following section of this annual report reviews progress under each heading in the Action Plan for the year.

(1) Improvement

The Association's Improvement Board has made good progress with the 2006 Improvement Plan - as reported to the full Association in January 2008 and published on our website. This work is supported by Vanda Leary who is the Association's full-time Improvement Director. In addition, the Improvement Board is supported by commitment from a large number of our authorities' own staff. The Board has approved a plan for 2008-11 aimed at improving efficiency through:

- shared services
- better procurement
- better customer service

Lead Chief Executive: Will Godfrey (East Hampshire).

(2) Local Area Agreements, Multi-Area Agreement and Local Strategic Partnerships

New local area agreements (LAAs) have been developed between the Unitary Authorities and County Council on the one hand and Government on the other. This has involved extensive partnership working via the Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs).

The Association's pilot funding for LSPs (2003-2006) gave way to the establishment of a regional LSP capacity building fund (2007-2011) now managed by South East Employers. The pilot funding enabled the Association to set up a HIOW LSP Chairs' network. During the year the administration of this network was passed from the Association's staff to the staff of the Hampshire Strategic Partnership.

For the South Hampshire area the three mainland LAAs are being aligned for infrastructure, housing and economic development purposes under the aegis of the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) chaired by Councillor Sean Woodward (Fareham).

The governance arrangements for the Hampshire LAA are being over-hauled to ensure that all 11 District Councils have a voice on the LAA governance body. The Association

has provided a forum for Hampshire local authority leaders to address this issue. Hampshire Leaders met on 27 July 2007 in Eastleigh and on 30 November in Basingstoke. Most recently, in March 2008 - prior to the Association's short formal meeting in Rushmoor Council Chamber - Hampshire Leaders agreed to set up a series of further facilitated discussions to prepare for a Hampshire Senate.

The Association meeting in November 2007 considered the Hampshire rural "pathfinder" which points the way for integrating funding for rural areas within the LAA context. The importance of rural areas to the urban centres was highlighted.

District Lead Chief Executives: Andrew Lloyd (Rushmoor) and Dave Yates (New Forest).

(3) **Prepare for the transition from comprehensive performance assessment to comprehensive area assessment (CAA).**

The Association aimed to help authorities prepare for the new inspection regime, to be introduced in 2009. This work has taken place through the Chief Executives' Group which the Audit Commission has attended on two occasions. The Commission has appointed Linda Krywald as the CAA Lead for Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton and Isle of Wight. In this capacity Linda has an open invitation to attend Association meetings in addition to relevant Chief Executive' Group sessions.

Hampshire County Council, New Forest District Council and Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council have worked during the year with the Audit Commission and other inspectorates on a learning set to help develop CAA. The Association is working with these authorities to ensure learning is disseminated. Preparation for CAA will be a priority for 2008/09.

District Lead Chief Executives: Roger Tetstall (Test Valley) and Ian Lycett (Gosport).

(4) **Community Safety**

The Association protested to the Government about last-minute funding cuts by the Home Office - details on our website. The Home Office went further and cut its development of the single non-emergency number (101) for which HIOW represented the first "wave" in England.

Following a debate on the future of 101 at the January 2008 Association meeting, the Police Authority decided to retain the single non-emergency number for the rest of 2008 and undertake a formal review with authorities in Autumn 2008.

Roger Tetstall (Test Valley Borough Council) has been the Chief Executive lead for work on 101.

District Lead Chief Executive for Community Safety: Andrew Lloyd (Rushmoor).

(5) **Local Government Finance**

The Association provided a forum for Members to discuss difficulties over the shortfall in revenue support, highlighting the lack of funds for concessionary bus travel in particular. The Chief Financial Officers' Group has provided a particular forum for authorities to work together on this issue.

This Association lobbied the Department for Transport on the difficulties faced by travel concession authorities - the delegation was led by Joe Duckworth (Chief Executive, Isle of Wight). This issue will remain on the Association's agenda for 2008-2009.

Leads: Unitary and County Chief Executives and Chief Financial Officers' Group.

(6) Growth and Infrastructure

With the Regional Assembly, the Association has supported authorities in their efforts to achieve funding for infrastructure to run alongside physical expansion. PUSH and other partnerships have been the main players in lobbying.

District Lead Chief Executive: Simon Eden (Winchester).

(7) The Sub National Review

Simon Eden has also led for the Chief Executives' Group on the Government's review of sub-national economic development. The main debate on this review has been conducted at regional level (because it affects the regional institutions) and within the political groups but the Association has provided a forum for Members to discuss the issues involved (see minutes of Association meetings in January and March 2008 published on our website).

(8) Children, Wellbeing, Health

The Association's Annual Meeting in Southampton Council Chamber, June 2007, received a briefing on the development of mental health services and the implications of foundation status for the main provider. Bernie Topham (Eastleigh) and Dave Yates (New Forest) led for the District Councils on health issues. The Strategic Health Authority set aside funding for a joint training and development programme on public health leadership for Members and staff to start in Autumn 2008.

Member authorities continued with implementation of "Every Child Matters" and generally the Hampshire partnership arrangements based on District Council boundaries appeared to work well. Dave Yates (New Forest) and Simon Eden (Winchester) - with Will Godfrey (East Hampshire) - led for the District Councils on this work.

The Hampshire Directors of Public Health and of Children's Services attended Chief Executives' Group meetings to improve co-operation between County and District Councils on these issues.

Member authorities took part in a successful regional bid for funds from the Lottery Well-being programme to address health inequalities. Bob Merrett (Winchester City Council) was appointed by the Association to mediate with a steering group on the many competing bids. This has resulted in current projects such as "Sport HIOW", "Cook and Eat Hampshire", "Active Wight" and very local projects such as "Sunny Side Up" - a healthy eating/early morning project in Bridgemary School, Gosport. (For details see Chances4Change website). The aim is to leave "a legacy of permanent health improvements, sustainable partnerships and capacity for further improvement in target communities".

District Lead Executives: Dave Yates (New Forest); Simon Eden (Winchester) and Bernie Topham (Eastleigh).

(9) **Climate Change**

All member authorities have given priority to tackling climate change. The LGA produced its climate change commission report and the County Council briefed members on its Hampshire climate change commission. Joint work through PUSH and across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight is now being led by Sandy Hopkins and a further report is planned for the Association as part of next year's action plan on gaps and joint action for the future.

Lead Chief Executive: Sandy Hopkins (Havant).

(10) **Lord Best's Review/Working with the LGA**

The LGA at national level with a new Chief Executive, Paul Coen, tried to improve its day-to-day working with member authorities. The Association in its normal activities supported this endeavour. Chris Lawrence-Pietroni, formerly a member of staff at Hampshire County Council, took on the role of the Association's LGA relationship manager at Local Government House.

The Best Review has led to the LGA planning "to simplify and make more coherent the sector's national architecture" and promoting "a genuine reduction in the actual number of improvement bodies". This will strengthen the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership which has changed its name to Improvement and Efficiency South East. It will be vital for HIOW to retain a strong voice on this South East regional body.

The Association arranged with the LGA's magazine "First" for two articles to be published: one by our Chairman, Councillor Peter Moyle, on Multiple Area Agreements and one by Councillor Ken Thornber (Leader, Hampshire County Council) on Climate Change. This was part of a co-ordinated drive with the Association of Council in the Thames Valley Region and Surrey LGA to give more prominence to the South East Councils at national level.

(11) **Community Engagement/Role of the Constituency Member**

The Association wanted to develop best practice on this issue and it was incorporated to a degree into the Improvement Board's project on member development. However there is more work to be done on this - building on other work by Surrey LGA Improvement Partnership and by the Neighbourhood Training and Resource Centre at Portsmouth. The Government's White Paper on "active citizenship" is in preparation and Southampton plans a major conference on 26 June, so this issue will remain on the agenda for 2008/2009.

6. OTHER ISSUES ARISING IN 2007-2008

Joint work on Gypsy and Traveller sites

Members received an update on the work of the Association's joint Gypsy and Traveller Panel (chaired until recently by Councillor Mrs Sutton of Winchester). Three area panels have negotiated their way through the forward planning process initiated by the Regional Assembly. This work has been facilitated by the Strategic Housing Officers' Group (in particular Kim Carron, Gosport and Lynne Croker of New Forest) and the HIOW Planning Officers' Group. The Association acknowledges the work of those officers concerned. Negotiations on sites for travelling show-people are on-going.

Preparation for the Olympics 2012

The South East Regional Co-ordinator for the London Olympics gave a presentation to last September's Association meeting. Simon Eden as lead Chief Executive with Mike Harris (Southampton) updated members on joint work through the HIOW Leisure Officers' Association. Rushmoor Borough Council was later congratulated on being selected to provide with the Army a major preparation camp.

Hampshire Economic Partnership

The Association continued to work alongside the Hampshire Economic Partnership which is playing a significant role at regional level. Lead Chief Executive Andrew Lloyd and Managing Director Peter Dean gave a presentation to the June 2007 Association meeting.

A VOICE FOR HAMPSHIRE AND THE ISLE OF WIGHT

7. The interests of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight differ from those of Kent or Milton Keynes with whom we share the same Government Office and Regional Assembly. The Association has formed a regular dialogue both with Government Office South East (GOSE) and with other regional partners.
8. Government has recognised the significance of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight as a sub-region in its drive to "modernise" and "join up" public services. GOSE has a Hampshire and Isle of Wight directorate represented on the Chief Executives' Group. This Association is the voice for local government in the dialogue with Government and GOSE, regional and sub-regional agencies.

APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

9. The Association has an Appointments Panel and has appointed members to those bodies shown in Appendix 2. The Panel consisted of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Association plus Councillors Anne Winstanley (Eastleigh) and Jo Kelly (Hampshire). The Panel with revised membership following the elections will report to the September meeting of the Association.

ORGANISATION AND COSTS

10. The Association meets regularly at Member level and is managed in between meetings by the Director and Personal Assistant.
11. The Association's papers are shown on our website (www.hiow.gov.uk). The full costs of the Association are given in a separate report on this agenda.
12. The Chairman of the Association elected for the year was Councillor Peter Moyle of Rushmoor Borough Council. The Vice-Chairman was Councillor Mel Kendal of New Forest District Council.
13. The Association employed one full time Director, Nick Goulder, and a part time Personal Assistant/Office Administrator/Web Editor, Diane Allen. These staff are based at Civic Offices, Eastleigh on a fully-refunded basis. Eastleigh Borough Council provides the Association's accountancy and office support services (all fully re-funded). The Borough Treasurer, Nick Tustian, is the Association's Treasurer. The Isle of Wight Council Chief Finance Officer is the Association's Auditor.
14. The Association also employed a full-time Improvement Director, Vanda Leary, and Improvement Manager, Emma Parr. These staff are based at East Hampshire District Council. Their posts and work is fully funded by Government and reported separately via the regional centre of excellence now renamed "Improvement and Efficiency South East".

Date: 2 June 2008

Appendices: 2

GLOSSARY

CAA	Comprehensive Area Assessment
GOSE	Government Office for the South East
HIOW	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Government Association
LAA	Local Area Agreement
LGA	Local Government Association (the national body)
LSP	Local Strategic Partnership
PUSH	Partnership for Urban South Hampshire

HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION	
LEAD OFFICERS (revised May 2008)	
Subject	Lead Officers
Association Business	Dave Yates (Alan Davies as Deputy)
Chief Executives' Group - Chair	Andrew Lloyd
Community Safety and Hampshire DAT	Andrew Lloyd/Sandy Hopkins
Comprehensive Performance Assessment/ Comprehensive Area Assessment	County and Unitary Chief Executives/Roger Tetstall and Ian Lycett for the District Councils
Culture/Creativity	Simon Eden/Roger Tetstall
Customer Services development/Single Non Emergency Number 101	Roger Tetstall
Economic Development/Hampshire Economic Partnership/Learning and Skills Council	Andrew Lloyd/Ian Lycett/Simon Eden/John Rees- Evans (Hampshire County Council)
Emergency Planning	Geoff Bonner (Alan Davies as Deputy)/Ian Houl (Hampshire County Council)
Hampshire LAA Executive (under review)	Bernie Topham/Andrew Lloyd/Will Godfrey
Hampshire Rural Pathfinder	Dave Yates/Will Godfrey
Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership	Dave Yates/Simon Eden (Will Godfrey as substitute)
Hampshire Safeguarding Children Board	Vacancy - formerly Alison Whitehead (Rushmoor) Claire Hughes (Havant)
Health	Dave Yates/Bernie Topham
Health and Welfare Lottery Bid	Bob Merrett (Winchester)
HIOW Improvement Board	Will Godfrey
HIOW HR Group	Dave Yates
Planning/Transport at the HIOW level (most is sub-regional or regional) and the Sub-National Review	Simon Eden/Alison Quant (Hampshire County Council)/Tony Curtis
Regional Assembly Chief Executives' Advisory Group	Simon Eden
Supporting People	Dave Yates
Sustainability and Liaison with Environment Agency	Sandy Hopkins
Waste	Tony Curtis/Brad Roynon

APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES 2007-2008

Outside Body	Representative(s)	Local Authority	Political Party
Committee for Rural Hampshire	Councillor Tony Hope Councillor David Neighbour	Test Valley Hart	Conservative Liberal Dem.
Hampshire Association of Local Councils	Councillor Alan Rice	New Forest	Conservative
Hampshire Buildings Preservation Trust	Councillor Peter Boulton Councillor Cecily Sutton Councillor Nick Walker	Test Valley Winchester Fareham	Conservative Liberal Dem. Conservative
Hampshire Economic Partnership	Councillor John Leek	Basingstoke and Deane	Conservative
Hampshire Playing Fields Association	Councillor Ian Carr Councillor Hugo Eastwood Vacancy Councillor Therese Evans	Test Valley Hart Winchester	Conservative Conservative Conservative Liberal Dem.
Hampshire County Council Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Councillor John Marsh Councillor Marion Kerley Councillor Peter Luffman Councillor Ray Love	Rushmoor Test Valley Eastleigh Winchester	Conservative Conservative Labour Liberal Dem
Hampshire Strategic Partnership Steering Group	Councillor Peter Moyle	Rushmoor	Conservative
Combined Youth Justice Standing Conference	Councillor Marion Kerley Councillor Anne Claxton	Test Valley East Hampshire	Conservative Liberal Dem.
Hampshire Pension Fund Panel	Councillor Ian Carr (deputy - Councillor Peter Giddings) Councillor Jeremy Moulton* (deputy - Councillor Steve Wemyss)*	Test Valley Test Valley Southampton Portsmouth	Conservative Conservative Conservative Conservative
Hampshire Area Environment Group	Councillor Brian Bayford Councillor Chris Thomas	Fareham Eastleigh	Conservative Liberal Dem

* Appointed by Portsmouth and Southampton City Councils jointly