

HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Association meeting held at Hampshire County Council on 25 January 2008 at 10.00 am.

Present:

Basingstoke and Deane	Councillor Andrew Finney Tony Curtis (Chief Executive)
East Hampshire	Councillor Elizabeth Cartwright Councillor Patrick Burridge Will Godfrey (Chief Executive)
Eastleigh	Councillor Keith House
Fareham	Councillor Sean Woodward Alan Davies (Chief Executive)
Hampshire	Councillor Brian Dash Councillor Jonathan Glen Councillor Ken Thornber Councillor Mike Woodhall Andrew Smith (Chief Executive) Stuart Jarvis (Deputy Director of Environment)
Hart	Councillor Kenneth Crookes Councillor David Neighbour Geoff Bonner (Chief Executive)
Havant	Councillor Andrew Lenaghan
Isle of Wight	Councillor Jilly Wood
New Forest	Councillor Maureen Holding Councillor Mel Kendal (Vice-Chairman) Dave Yates (Chief Executive)
Portsmouth	Councillor Lee Mason David Williams (Chief Executive)
Rushmoor	Councillor Roland Dibbs Councillor Peter Moyle (Chairman) Andrew Lloyd (Chief Executive)
Southampton	Councillor Liz Mizon Brad Roynon (Chief Executive)
Test Valley	Councillor Ian Carr Councillor Peter Giddings Roger Tetstall (Chief Executive)

Winchester	Councillor George Beckett Simon Eden (Chief Executive)
Hampshire Fire and Rescue	Councillor Michael Cartwright David Howells
Hampshire Police Authority	Councillor Adrian Collett (Vice-Chairman)
New Forest National Park Authority	Ted Johnson Lindsay Cornish
Hampshire Association of Local Councils	Councillor David Bidwell Steven Lugg (Director)
Isle of Wight Association of Parish and Town Councils	Councillor Bob Blezzard
One Community	Ken Dufton (Chief Executive)
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Government Association	Nick Goulder (Director) Diane Allen (PA to Director)
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary	Deputy Chief Constable Ian Readhead Chief Superintendent Nigel Hindle

1.08 **WELCOME**

Councillor Ken Thornber CBE, Leader of Hampshire County Council, welcomed all those present to the meeting. He congratulated Rushmoor Borough Council on its success in securing the Great Britain preparation camp for the 2012 Olympics.

2.08 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor John Leek (Basingstoke and Deane); Councillors David Smith and Shaun Cully (Gosport); Councillor Alan Rice (Hampshire); Councillors Tony Briggs and David Gillett (Havant); Councillor David Pugh (Isle of Wight); Councillor Royston Smith (Southampton).

3.08 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 November 2007 were agreed.

Arising out of the minutes, Councillor Thornber gave an update on the progress of the Hampshire Senate (minute 44.07 refers). It was proposed to hold a shadow meeting of the Senate on 28 March in Rushmoor.

The Director reported that a letter had been sent to the Government concerning concessionary fares (minute 47.07 refers). No reply had been received to date. However Government Office had contacted the Director to offer a speaker from the Department of Transport to talk to the Association to explain the Government's position.

Councillor Elizabeth Cartwright enquired when an item on council tax on second homes would be brought back to the Association. Councillor Thornber gave an update on his ideas about council tax discounts for the elderly - which would not be pursued. He suggested that East Hampshire talk to the County Council separately on the issue of council tax on second homes.

4.08 **CLIMATE CHANGE**

The Chairman introduced Stuart Jarvis, Deputy Director of Environment, Hampshire County Council who gave a presentation on this subject.

The presentation focussed on

- the Vision on Climate Change
- the Climate Change Commission of Inquiry
- the conclusions of the Inquiry
- Council agreed actions
- Policy Statement

A proposition on climate change in Hampshire and Isle of Wight, introduced by Councillor Thornber, was suggested by Hampshire County Council. The proposition is annexed to these minutes.

Many of those present welcomed the proposition. The New Forest National Park Authority offered to report back on how national parks nationally were tackling the issue.

East Hampshire felt there was a need to lobby Government to change building regulations relating to the private sector.

It was agreed that the matter be brought back to a future meeting of the Association once it had been discussed by the Chief Executives' Group and other interested parties.

5.08 **IMPLEMENTING THE SUB-NATIONAL REVIEW IN THE SOUTH EAST**

Simon Eden, Lead Chief Executive for Planning and Integrated Transport, introduced his report on this topic. The Chief Executives' Group did not recommend that the Association collectively adopts any particular position.

The report updated Members on the current situation on the debate surrounding the Sub National Review (SNR). It set out the regional case and advice from the region-wide Local Authority Chief Executives grouping. The report also highlighted the issues relating to HIOW.

A discussion took place on how to take the matter forward. It was suggested that talks be undertaken with the Association of Councils in the Thames Valley Region and Surrey Local Government Association.

However Simon Eden advised Members at this stage to concentrate on the outcomes they

wanted to achieve rather than the structures needed to represent local government at the regional level.

Councillor Thornber argued that the H/IOW area was an important sub-region similar in size to the north-east region. As such we should be seeking to work with the regional development agency (RDA) and to see economic development powers delegated to H/IOW.

Councillor Mrs Cartwright and others pointed out that the current RDA model had successfully involved the business sector in decision making. There was a danger that business people would be put off if the RDA's role was expanded into the more controversial areas of regional planning and housing.

Councillor House emphasised the need to be proactive in influencing Government thinking and fighting centralisation.

On balance it was agreed not to address concerns about structures to represent local government but to continue to lobby Government and Government Office to ensure maximum delegation to local authorities.

6.08 IMPLICATIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT DECISION TO ABANDON THE SINGLE NON-EMERGENCY NUMBER 101

Consideration was given to a joint report by Roger Tetstall, Lead Chief Executive for Customer Services Development/Single Non Emergency Number 101 and Chief Superintendent Nigel Hindle.

Roger Tetstall drew attention to the original Government aspiration for 101 to be the national non-emergency number alongside 999 by April 2008. Hampshire/Isle of Wight's experience as part of the first "wave" of 101 had enabled a new and effective infrastructure for joint working between local authorities and the Police to be put in place. However the Government had now abandoned 101 as a national number and withdrawn funding (alongside significant other Home Office cuts). Without all authorities' participation the Chief Executives' Group had concluded that 101 could not continue in our area, however the Group was anxious to retain the joint working arrangements with the police.

The Deputy Chief Constable, Ian Readhead, confirmed the excellent joint working between the police and local authorities and the success of 101 in Hampshire/Isle of Wight.

Councillor Thornber drew attention to the relatively small sum (£70,000) required from the local authority side to keep 101 in place for a further year of evaluation. He asked the Deputy Chief Constable whether 101 could be continued without full local authority participation. However Councillor Carr and others confirmed that all local authorities should be engaged if 101 was to be retained.

The County Council offered to fund £45,000 of the total required for local authorities, leaving less than £2000 per authority to be found. The Fire and Rescue Authority confirmed its agreement to contribute.

Fareham on the other hand argued that 101 was not sustainable now that it was not going

to be a national number. People would phone their local authority if they needed to, and 101 was not a free call for the user. Fareham and others were not baulking at the funding of 101 but at the principle of retaining it when it would not be a well-known national number. East Hampshire, Portsmouth, Eastleigh (and Gosport, it was understood) agreed with Fareham. In the light of the arguments put forward for a full evaluation over the next year, Isle of Wight and Havant were persuaded to participate in the continuation of 101 if others were similarly persuaded.

Councillor Kendal drew attention to the relevance of the 101 joint working to the Improvement agenda.

The Chairman proposed and it was:

RESOLVED

That those authorities not minded to participate in an extension of 101 for a full evaluation be given two weeks to reconsider their positions in the light of the arguments put forward and the funding offer from the County Council.

7.08 HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Consideration was given to a report by Will Godfrey, Lead Chief Executive for Improvement.

The report gave details of the original improvement plan agreed by HIOW in June 2006 and a further plan which had been prepared for a three year period commencing in April 2008.

Mr Godfrey felt that a lot had been achieved over the past two years. He felt that more action and less talk was needed. The improvement programme was not just about shared services, it was about organisational development and capacity building. He reported that there was now less funding available than originally thought. Success would be dependent upon full commitment from all the participating authorities.

Hampshire County Council supported the work of the Improvement Board and spoke about the success of the recruitment portal.

Members asked to see a report on the major achievements of the Board to date.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

8.08 SUBSCRIPTIONS AND BUDGET FOR THE ASSOCIATION 2008/2009

Consideration was given to a joint report by the Treasurer and Dave Yates, Lead Chief Executive for Association Business.

The report set out the financial position of the Association for 2007/2008 and projections for 2008/2009. It also gave details of the level of subscription for the next financial year. The Annex to the report gave details of the monitoring report for 2007/2008 and the budget for 2008/2009.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the budget for 2008/2009 be approved; and
- (2) That the Association's membership subscription unit be increased by just under 5% to £2,200 from June 2008.

9.08 FIVE MINUTE SLOT AND FUTURE AGENDA

Councillor Mike Woodhall suggested that an item on funding for the Arts be brought to a future meeting.

10.08. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Association would be held on 28 March 2008 at 10.00 am in the Council Chamber, Rushmoor Civic Offices, Farnborough and would be followed by the first meeting of a shadow "Senate" for Hampshire.

HIOW MEETING 25 JANUARY 2008
AGENDA ITEM: CLIMATE CHANGE

HCC Proposition

- (1) Propose that the following Vision be adopted as a succinct statement of our overarching sustainability objective:-

“Within a decade Hampshire will prosper without risking our environment”

- (2) Propose that the following Policy be adopted as a framework for the overall Local Government response to the challenges of climate change in Hampshire, Southampton, Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight:-

“Through its own operations, and in partnership with others, HIOW and its individual members will seek to ensure a resilient and sustainable future for our area by placing climate change considerations at the heart of our decision making processes, policy development, and operational activities”

- (3) Propose that HIOW considers further how it can facilitate best practice, learning and development and integrated action on climate change through the dissemination of information, maintenance of a network of contacts and where appropriate co-ordination of initiatives and actions across the area.

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