

HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Association meeting held at East Hampshire District Council on 28 November 2008 at 10.00 am.

Present:

Basingstoke and Deane	Councillor John Leek Tony Curtis (Chief Executive)
East Hampshire	Councillor Elizabeth Cartwright Councillor Ferris Cowper Will Godfrey (Chief Executive)
Eastleigh	Bernie Topham (Chief Executive)
Fareham	Councillor Sean Woodward Alan Davies (Chief Executive)
Gosport	Ian Lycett (Chief Executive)
Hampshire	Councillor Brian Dash Councillor Jonathan Glen Councillor Ken Thornber
Hart	Councillor Kenneth Crookes
Havant	Councillor David Collins Sandy Hopkins
New Forest	Councillor Melville Kendal (Chairman) Councillor Barry Rickman Dave Yates (Chief Executive)
Rushmoor	Councillor Roland Dibbs Councillor Peter Moyle Andrew Lloyd (Chief Executive)
Southampton	Councillor Alec Samuels
Test Valley	Councillor Peter Giddings Bernard Sully (Corporate Director)
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 (Chief Executive)

Isle of Wight Association of Local 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)

Also in attendance:

Improvement and Development Agency	Marianne Abley
Local Government Association	Paul Coen, Chief Executive
South East Employers	Jennifer McNeill Mark Palmer

29.08 WELCOME

Councillor Ferris Cowper, Leader of East Hampshire District Council, welcomed all those present to the meeting. He made reference to the proposed Eco-Town at Bordon/Whitehill.

30.08 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Andrew Finney (Basingstoke and Deane); Councillors Keith House and Anne Winstanley (Eastleigh); Councillor David Smith (Gosport); Councillor Alan Rice (Hampshire); Councillor David Bidwell (HALC); Councillor Tony Briggs (Havant); Councillor David Pugh (Isle of Wight); Councillor Lee Mason (Portsmouth); Councillor Jill Baston (Southampton); Councillor Ian Carr (Test Valley);

31.08 MINUTES

The minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 13 June 2008 were agreed as a correct record. Arising from minute 22.08 (Government Consultation on the review of Sub-National Economic Development and Regeneration) Councillor George Beckett (Winchester) reported that the Government's response had now been published. He urged as many Leaders as possible to attend the meeting in London on 12 December at which representatives would be elected to the new South East Councils' representative body and Executive Committee.

32.08 PRESENTATION BY PAUL COEN

The Chairman introduced Paul Coen, Chief Executive of the Local Government Association (LGA).

Mr Coen gave a presentation which focussed on:

- Recession, its impact on local government and local government's role during this period
- Service issues
- Politics - and the need to influence an incoming Government

The LGA Group and its value for money to local authorities.

He drew attention to local government's success in persuading Government to include democratically accountable members in regional planning decision-making.

Mr Coen answered questions and concerns from those present including:

- Problems with influencing civil servants and Government departments
- The importance of working across agencies concerning public health issues
- The meeting of the Hampshire Senate that afternoon was highlighted
- Budget problems and reduction in services on the Isle of Wight
- Concerns regarding concessionary bus fares with more support from Government requested
- How to deal with problems with some partner collaborations
- How to assist businesses through the recession and member/officer conflict on financial concerns
- Concerns about major regeneration schemes at risk and the need for Government support during recession. Major schemes in the South East such as the Aldershot Urban Extension could be used to kick-start further economic growth
- Better representation of District Councils on the LGA
- The South East Plan and housing numbers contained within it
- Concerns around the financing of local government and the ambition to free local authorities of central government funding.

In his presentation Paul Coen had offered to attend meetings of this Association on an annual basis. The Chairman thanked Mr Coen for his participation in this meeting and welcomed his offer to attend annually. Paul Coen then stayed for the next item so that he could relay the message back to the LGA.

33.08 SITE OPERATOR LICENCES FOR HEAVY GOODS VEHICLES

Dave Yates (Chief Executive, New Forest) introduced a report on this subject.

The annex to the report set out a motion from New Forest District Council to the LGA concerning heavy goods vehicles site operator licence applications. To date no response to the motion had been received.

The report sought support from Member authorities to the motion and to ask the LGA to expedite the matter.

The Chairman reported that the Traffic Commissioners were supportive of local authorities on this issue and Hampshire County Council offered its support.

Paul Coen would follow up the letter sent to the LGA listing New Forest's concerns.

RESOLVED

That the New Forest District Council motion be supported and the LGA be asked to press the Government for the necessary legislative change.

34.08 CLIMATE CHANGE

Consideration was given to a report by the Lead Chief Executive for Sustainability on this subject.

The report brought Members up to date with progress following the report to the Association meeting in January 2008 and sought leadership on this important subject from Members.

The Chairman felt there was a lot of good work going on and cohesive leadership was needed. He requested that those authorities not in PUSH be included in the work.

Other comments included:

- climate change was a national and international issue and HIOW should be learning best practice from elsewhere
- the excellent work of Southampton University on the subject
- disappointment that Regional Housing Board funding earmarked for the two Hampshire and Isle of Wight consortia to help reduce CO2 emissions from private households was to be reduced. Assurances were given that this would be looked into
- different challenges for rural areas. The New Forest National Park Authority would be keen to be involved
- companies who offered services free of charge to the over 75's were highlighted.

RESOLVED

That Members confirm the importance of continued joint working on Climate Change.

35.08 REVIEW OF THE HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT LGA

Consideration was given to a report by the Lead Chief Executive for Association Business. The report gave details of the work of the Association to date and the reasons for the review. Member Chief Executives had met to consider the way forward and the report set out their conclusions.

Minor changes to the Constitution were recommended.

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously

- (1) That HIOW/LGA be retained for the time being and refreshed in the ways proposed in paragraph 7 of the report;
- (2) That the Constitution be amended to allow more flexibility in Member meetings as proposed in paragraph 8 of the report; and

- (3) That the role of the Association be re-considered in the light of the outcomes of the Government's Sub-National Review (SNR).

36.08 **APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

Consideration was given to a report by the Appointments Panel.

An annex was attached to the report showing current appointments and vacancies. The report also gave details regarding membership of the new Solent and South Downs Environment Group. At present Hampshire District Councils were allotted only one member on the Group and Unitaries and the County Council did not have any representation. The Director suggested that HIOW lobby for two representatives as he felt it was an important group on which to be represented.

The Director asked that any suggestions for representatives to fill the two remaining vacancies on outside bodies be passed to him.

RESOLVED

- (1) That District Council representation on Outside Bodies as set out in the Annex be approved; and
- (2) That the Environment Agency be asked to allow a second Council representative from Hampshire and the Isle of Wight on the Solent and South Downs Environment Group.

37.08 **"FIVE MINUTE SLOT" AND FUTURE AGENDA**

Consideration was given to the Director's report on this subject.

The report set out potential matters for consideration at the Association meeting in January 2009.

Councillor Bob Blezzard of the Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils drew attention to concerns over the Lymington to Yarmouth ferry service. Dave Yates brought the meeting up to date on the matter and gave assurances about the concerns. He was pressing for an early resolution despite the complex regulations. Councillor Blezzard requested support from HIOW to resolve the situation as soon as possible.

The Chairman felt that Lymington provided an important link to the Island, the cancellation of which would also have a possible impact on the Brockenhurst to Lymington rail service. Members fully supported the Isle of Wight's concern about good transport links to the west of the Island but noted that environmental problems may have to be resolved and that the Secretary of State would need to resolve some of the planning issues.

Fareham Borough Council requested that an item on concessionary travel be brought to the next meeting. Precise facts and figures would need to be collated. The Director would produce a paper in consultation with all authorities.

The Director drew attention to a DVD of the subject of partnerships produced by South East Employers.

East Hampshire suggested that Westminster politicians be invited to Association meetings. Hampshire felt this would be valuable. The Chairman suggested the Minister for Local Government might be invited in due course but initially the Minister for the South East Region be approached.

38.08 **PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS 2009**

Consideration was given to a report by the Director showing the programme of meetings for 2009. There would be a change to the date of the Annual Meeting to allow for joint European and local government elections in June 2009.

RESOLVED

- (1) That Members confirm that the Association's Annual Meeting be held on Friday 10 July 2009 in Portsmouth Guildhall; and
- (2) That Members note that the next meeting of the Association will be hosted by Test Valley Borough Council at Beech Hurst, Andover on 30 January 2009.