

**CABINET****15 September 2010****Attendance:**

Councillor Learney -	<i>Leader and Portfolio Holder for Transformation and Resources (Chairman) (P)</i>
Councillor Bell -	<i>Portfolio Holder for High Quality Environment (P)</i>
Councillor Collin -	<i>Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Winchester and Surrounds (P)</i>
Councillor Evans -	<i>Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Rural Areas and Market Towns (P)</i>
Councillor Hiscock -	<i>Portfolio Holder for Economic Prosperity (P)</i>
Councillor Thompson	<i>Portfolio Holder for Communities (P)</i>

**Others in attendance who addressed the meeting:**

Councillors Beckett, Coates, Godfrey, Mitchell, Pearson, Stallard and Wood

Mr A Rickman (TACT)

**Others in attendance who did not address the meeting:**

Councillors Banister and Tait

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**1. MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meetings held on 15 September 2010, less exempt items, be approved and adopted.

**2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mr A Rickman (TACT) spoke regarding Report CAB2048 and CAB2045 and his comments are summarised under the relevant agenda items below.

**3. LEADER AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements made.

**4. GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET – REVISED ESTIMATE 2010/11  
(Report [CAB2057](#) refers)**

The Chairman emphasised the difficulties facing the Council arising from the cuts in Government grants already announced and those expected as a result

of the forthcoming Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) in October. In addition, staff turnover had reduced and the level of income for 2010/11 was running lower than estimated when the budget was approved, increasing the likelihood of the requirement for redundancies. The Report therefore set out a review of the Budget for the current year, with a Report on budget options for 2011/12 to be submitted to the November Cabinet, following the Comprehensive Spending Review announcements.

The Chief Executive advised that Personnel Committee at its meeting on 30 September 2010 would consider a Report setting out Phase 1 proposals for staffing reductions during 2010/11 and affected staff would be consulted after this time. The Report would also be submitted to Cabinet in October to consider the financial implications.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillors Godfrey, Wood, Pearson and Beckett addressed the meeting and raised a number of queries and general comments, of which the main points are summarised below:

- Various questions regarding current levels of staff turnover, retirement age and whether there was a recruitment freeze;
- Further clarification of the proposed reductions in expenditure relating to 'Employee Cost Savings' and 'Release of Pay Award Provision' and in particular, whether the latter savings would be used to finance measures to tackle climate change;
- Concern that earlier action should have been taken because of the reduced budgets and the lack of detailed proposals contained within the Report;
- Further information requested about statements in the media by the Leader regarding a predicted shortfall of £2 million and the requirement for the loss of up to 70 jobs;
- Concern that front-line services should not be reduced;
- Questions regarding the proposed savings of £161,000 on Concessionary Travel;
- Whether it was now appropriate to release the insurance provision of £185,000;
- Various detailed points of clarification regarding proposed revisions to the budget which were answered by the Head of Finance. The Chairman highlighted the opportunity for Members to contact officers prior to the meeting to raise such queries.

The Chief Executive outlined the various methods being adopted to manage vacancies and recruitment, together with monitoring staff turnover. This was in conjunction with examining opportunities for organisational development and savings through shared services with other local authorities. He confirmed that staff turnover had reduced considerably since the previous year. The Council was not legally permitted to compel employees to leave at retirement age, nor would it want to do so. However, it was proposed that expressions of interest regarding early retirement be sought. There was a not a blanket freeze on recruitment, but the requirement to replace posts would be managed on

merit and there would be an assumption that if a post was to be filled, it would be from within the Council, if possible.

The Chairman clarified that the pay award currently being offered under the Local Government Scheme, of which the Council was a member, was 0% and that the revised budget had been based on this assumption. A decision on expenditure on climate change provisions would be made as part of the forthcoming budget decisions.

The Head of Finance explained that the Financial Strategy submitted to Cabinet in July 2010 had made assumptions based on previous Government statements that savings of between 25-40% would be required over the next four years. This had equated to a predicted shortfall of £1.7 million in 2011/12. With the further information now available she currently estimated that the gap was £2m.

In relation to the insurance provision of £185,000, the Head of Finance explained that the risk to the Council reduced over time, and the matter would be kept under review. A decision would be made at year end based on an updated risk assessment.

The Corporate Director (Operations) explained that savings in relation to Concessionary Travel related to lower costs in relation to previous years, and a revised forecast for 2010/11. He highlighted that the County Council would take over responsibility for this service from 1 April 2011.

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons set out above and outlined in the Report.

**RECOMMENDED:**

**THAT THE REVISED ESTIMATE FOR 2010/11 BE APPROVED.**

5. **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT –REVISED BUDGET 2010/11**  
(Report [CAB2048](#) refers)

Mr A Rickman (TACT) welcomed the proposals within the Report. He highlighted that the main concerns of TACT related to the future plans of the Coalition Government regarding the Housing Revenue Account Review. He stated that he and other Council tenants would be lobbying MPs next month regarding the requirement for fair treatment.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillors Pearson and Coates addressed Cabinet and their comments are summarised below.

- Support for the proposed increase in the Estate Improvements budget;

- Clarification regarding proposed expenditure of disabled adaptations. Concern that the amount being spent by the County Council on adaptations in private sector housing stock was reducing;
- What asset sales were referred to in Paragraph 8.2(d) of the Report?
- Support for the introduction of solar panels;
- Further information regarding the current use of the hostel at Sussex Street with regard to reports about a reduction in the level of homelessness;
- Various questions regarding the detail of the proposed Revised Budget which were answered by the Head of Landlord Services.

Councillor Thompson explained that the asset sales referred to in the Report were those approved by the previous Council Administration and highlighted that the approach of the current Administration was that there should be no further sales of standard Council homes.

Councillor Thompson stated that homelessness levels were increasing. She confirmed that the lease of the Sussex Street hostel to the University had now ceased and decisions regarding its future use would need to be made. She shared Councillors' concerns regarding the growing disparity between amounts spent by the Council on disabled adaptations in its own properties and the amount being spent on public sector support for private properties.

The Chairman advised that a Report would be submitted to a future Cabinet regarding the possible introduction of solar panels on Council properties.

The Chairman congratulated the Head of Landlord Services for his work in preparing the proposals contained in the Report.

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons set out above and outlined in the Report.

**RECOMMENDED:**

**THAT, SUBJECT TO ANY COMMENTS MADE BY PRINCIPAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE, THE PROPOSED £150,000 INCREASE IN THE ESTATES WORKS BUDGET, FUNDED FROM THE HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BALANCES, BE APPROVED.**

**RESOLVED:**

1. That, subject to Council approving the increase in the Estate Works budget, the Housing Revenue Account revised budget proposals for 2010/11 as detailed in Paragraph 2 and Appendix 1 of the Report be approved.

2. That the revised maintenance programme as detailed in Paragraph 3 and Appendix 3 be approved and that the Capital Programme be amended to take account of these changes.

3. That the £400,000 revenue repairs carry forward approved by Council in July 2010 be used as a revenue contribution to capital to fund additional kitchen works.

6. **NATIONAL AND LOCAL STANDARDS FOR SOCIAL HOUSING**

(Report [CAB2045](#) refers)

Mr Rickman (TACT) expressed some concern about the uncertainty regarding the future of the Tenant Services Authority (TSA) regulatory framework as TACT would wish to see it continue. He confirmed that TACT supported the proposals to undertake a Tenant Satisfaction survey, as proposed in the Report.

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons set out above and outlined in the Report.

RESOLVED:

1. That the proposals set out in the report for agreeing new local standards with tenants by April 2011 be approved.

2. That proposals for undertaking a "Status" Tenant Satisfaction survey at an estimated cost of £10,000, later this year, be approved.

3. That the Head of Landlord Services be authorised to prepare and publish the Annual Report for 2009/10 in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Communities.

7. **TREASURY MANAGEMENT STEWARDSHIP REPORT FOR 2009/10**

(Report [CAB2042](#) refers)

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons outlined in the Report.

RESOLVED:

That the Treasury Management Stewardship Report for 2009/10 and the Actual 2009/10 Prudential Indicators (Appendix A of the Report) be approved.

8. **TREASURY MANAGEMENT INFORMAL SCRUTINY GROUP**

(Report [PS418](#) refers)

Cabinet noted that at its meeting on 12 July 2010, Principal Scrutiny Committee had requested that Cabinet endorse the recommendations of the Informal Scrutiny Group (ISG), as set out within the Report.

The Chairman advised that she and Councillor Collin had been members of the ISG which had conducted a thorough review.

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons set out above and outlined in the Report.

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations of the Treasury Management Informal Scrutiny Group, as set out in Paragraph 4 of the Report, be endorsed.

9. **PARTNERSHIP FOR URBAN SOUTH HAMPSHIRE (PUSH) – REVISIONS TO CONSTITUTION**

(Report [CAB2041](#) refers)

Councillor Collin declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest in respect of this item due to his role as a County Councillor. He remained in the room, spoke and voted thereon.

The Chairman highlighted the success of PUSH to date and the Council's wish for its work to continue.

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons set out above and outlined in the Report.

RESOLVED:

That the Head of Legal Services be authorised to enter into a supplementary legal agreement to amend the existing joint arrangements in accordance with the Appendix to the Report.

10. **PARTNERSHIP FOR URBAN SOUTH HAMPSHIRE BUSINESS PLAN 2010-12**

(Report [CAB2058](#) refers)

Councillor Collin declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest in respect of this item due to his role as a County Councillor. He remained in the room, spoke and voted thereon.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Beckett spoke in support of the work of PUSH. He queried whether the Council would also support the proposed PUSH Local Economic Partnership, in particular with regard to the County Council's plans to introduce an alternative economic partnership. In addition, he asked whether the benefits of the local economic partnership would be publicised.

The Chairman confirmed that the Council would support the PUSH Solent Economic Partnership and would consider ways to improve publicising the benefits of membership. However, she had some concerns regarding the County Council's proposals and would be seeking to work with them to towards an alternative proposal that addressed issues in rural areas.

One Member highlighted that the Business Plan referred to the Hedge End SDA which should now be removed. She also emphasised the importance of ensuring the necessary infrastructure was in place at an early stage of proposed developments.

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons set out above and outlined in the Report.

RESOLVED:

That the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire's Business Plan 2010-12 be endorsed and the commitments it makes be taken into account in the Council's Business Plans.

11. **PROPOSED TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS 2011/12**  
(Report [CAB2044](#) refers)

The Chairman advised that a review of scrutiny arrangements was intended which could reduce the number of meetings required and would aim to increase the effectiveness of the scrutiny process. She confirmed that proposals would be subject to further discussion with Scrutiny Chairs, together with Opposition Group leaders. However, it was proposed that the timetable be approved at this stage in order to ensure Guildhall room bookings were made.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Mitchell requested that the date of the September 2011 Statement of Accounts Committee be changed to avoid the party political conference. The Chairman stated that this was a matter that could be decided at the start of the next Municipal Year.

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons set out above and outlined in the Report.

RESOLVED:

That the Timetable of Meetings for the 2011/12 Municipal Year be agreed, as set out in Appendix 1 of the Report.

12. **REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES**  
(Report [CAB2046](#) refers)

Cabinet noted that a further nomination had been received for Henry Smith Charity (St Peters) from the existing representative, Mrs Ann Craig. The Charity had also confirmed that they would like Mrs Craig to continue. Cabinet

agreed to this appointment, subject to a request that Mrs Craig report back on activity within the Charity.

The Chairman also reported that Councillor Bell wished to be considered as a deputy on the River Hamble Harbour Management Sub-Committee.

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons set out above and outlined in the Report.

RESOLVED:

That the following appointments be made (term of office in brackets):

- (a) Henry Smith Charity (St Peters)  
Mrs Ann Craig (September 2013)
- (b) River Hamble Harbour Management Sub-Committee  
Councillor Weston and Councillor Bell (deputy) (both September 2013)
- (c) Streetreach (formerly Winchester Detached Youth Work Project)  
Councillor Love (September 2011)

13. **MINOR AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION – SCHEME OF DELEGATION TO OFFICERS**

(Report [CAB2049](#) refers)

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Pearson queried the level of work involved in dealing with stray horses within the District.

The Corporate Director (Governance) that the amendment was proposed in order that the power was available on the rare occasions that it might be required.

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons outlined in the Report.

RESOLVED:

That the minor change to Part 3 of the Council's Constitution (Scheme of Delegation to Officers) be agreed as set out in the Report.

14. **MINUTES OF THE CABINET (LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK) COMMITTEE HELD 22 JULY 2010**

(Report [CAB2051](#) refers)

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons outlined in the Report.

RESOLVED:



That the minutes of the Cabinet (Local Development Framework) Committee held 22 July 2010 be received (as attached as Appendix A to the minutes) and the recommendation contained therein be agreed.

15. **MINUTES OF THE SOCIAL ISSUES SCRUTINY PANEL HELD 8 MARCH 2010**  
(Report [CAB2052](#) refers)

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons outlined in the Report.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Social Issues Scrutiny Panel held 15 July 2010 be received . and the recommendation contained therein on the Landlord Services Benchmarking Informal Scrutiny Group be agreed.

16. **MINUTES OF THE LOCAL ECONOMY SCRUTINY PANEL HELD 19 JULY 2010**  
(Report [CAB2053](#) refers)

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons outlined in the Report.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Local Economy Scrutiny Panel held 19 July 2010 be received.

17. **MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL HELD 9 MARCH 2010**  
(Report [CAB2054](#) refers)

Councillor Pearson declared a personal interest, due to his involvement as a previous Cabinet Member in actions taken or proposed in the Reports outlined below.

However, Cabinet requested that Councillor Pearson remain in the meeting in order that he could provide additional information to the meeting and/or answer questions.

Councillor Pearson spoke in support of the recommendations of the Emergency Planning Informal Scrutiny Group (ISG) as set out in the minute and in particular, mentioned the importance of involving parish councils in emergency planning. He advised that the National Red Cross had produced a toolkit to enable emergency planning at a local/parish level.

Councillor Thompson concurred with comments regarding the importance of involving parish councils.

Cabinet agreed to approve the recommendations of the ISG in principle, with the detail to be approved by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Communities.

With regard to the concerns raised by the Panel regarding the failure to meet targets in the Planning Management Team, Councillor Bell confirmed that this area was being closely monitored and outlined a number of measures already introduced to tackle the problem.

Cabinet approved the recommendation that the Tree Preservation Informal Scrutiny Group be established. However, it requested that its terms of reference be broadened to cover the Council's wider role in tree management and asked that the Group have regard to the current budget background in formulating its recommendations.

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons outlined in the Report.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Panel's recommendations regarding the final report of the Emergency Planning Informal Scrutiny Group (ISG) (Report EN100 refers) be supported in principle, but the detail of the implementation be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Communities.
2. That the Panel's concerns regarding areas where targets were not being met (particularly in regard to the Planning Management Team) be noted.
3. That the establishment of the Tree Preservation Informal Scrutiny Group be approved, subject to its terms of reference being broadened to cover the Council's wider role in tree management; and the Group be asked to have regard to the current budget background in formulating its recommendations.
4. That the remaining minutes of the Environment Scrutiny Panel held 20 July 2010 be received.

18. **MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES SCRUTINY PANEL HELD 22 JULY 2010**  
(Report [CAB2055](#) refers)

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons outlined in the Report.

RESOLVED:

- That the minutes of the Resources Scrutiny Panel held 22 July 2010 be received.

19. **RIVER PARK LEISURE CENTRE – REFURBISHMENT PROPOSALS**  
**RIVER PARK AND MEADOWSIDE LEISURE CENTRE MANAGEMENT**  
**CONTRACT (LESS EXEMPT APPENDICES)**

(Report [CAB2047](#) refers)

The Chairman explained that the Report was proposing a revised strategy for the refurbishment of River Park Leisure Centre (RPLC) due to competing pressures on the Council's capital and revenue funded programmes. Although it was disappointing that the proposed work would not now include energy saving measures, she emphasised that more comprehensive proposals would be examined at a future date. Councillor Hiscock stressed that the more extensive refurbishment proposals were not being cancelled, but deferred for the current time. He also highlighted the benefits of the revised strategy because RPLC would not be required to be closed for an extended period of time, particularly in the run up to the 2012 Olympic Games.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Stallard expressed disappointment that the previous proposals for refurbishment would not proceed. In particular, she emphasised that the refurbishment proposals would not now include any visible benefits for RPLC users and queried whether users had been consulted. She was concerned that the proposals did not address the need to improve the Centre's energy efficiency and that in general, the piecemeal improvements proposed would be a more expensive option in the long term.

Councillor Hiscock highlighted the requirement for the Council to adjust its expenditure on the RPLC according to the funds available and to prioritise improvements accordingly. The Head of Sports and Physical Activity advised that consultation with users had not been undertaken as it was not considered appropriate given the essential nature of the works proposed.

The Corporate Director (Operations) proposed an amendment to Recommendation 1 of the Report to reflect the requirement for an additional £40,000 to be spent in the current financial year (and a corresponding reduction in expenditure in 2011/12). This was agreed.

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons set out above and outlined in the Report.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That a revised strategy for the refurbishment of the River Park Leisure Centre be agreed, with fees up to £170,000 in 2010/11 and works not exceeding £460,000 programmed for 2011/12 and the major part of the refurbishment deferred to 2013/14 subject to the availability of resources.

20. **FUTURE ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

RESOLVED:

That the list of future items, as set out in the Forward Plan for September 2010, be noted.

21. **DECISIONS TAKEN BY PORTFOLIO HOLDERS UNDER THEIR DELEGATED POWERS**

RESOLVED:

That the decisions taken by Portfolio Holders under their delegated powers since the last Cabinet meeting, as set out on the agenda sheet, be noted.

22. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

RESOLVED:

1. That in all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

2. That the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business because it is likely that, if members of the public were present, there would be disclosure to them of 'exempt information' as defined by Section 100I and Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

<u>Minute Number</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Description of Exempt Information</u>
##	Exempt minutes of the previous meeting	) Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). (Para 3 Schedule 12A refers)
##	RPLC Report – Exempt appendices	
##	75 Hyde Street, Winchester	
##	Provision of Finance Support Services & IT Services to SEE	
##	RPLC Report – Exempt appendices	
		) Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a

- ) Minister of the Crown and
- ) employees of, or office
- ) holders under, the authority.
- ) (Para 4 Schedule 12A refers)
- )
- ) Information in respect of
- ) which a claim to legal
- ) professional privilege could
- ) be maintained in legal
- ) proceedings. (Para 5
- ) Schedule 12A refers)

23. **EXEMPT MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the exempt minutes of the previous meeting, held on 9 July 2010, be approved and adopted.

24. **RIVER PARK LEISURE CENTRE – REFURBISHMENT PROPOSALS**  
**RIVER PARK AND MEADOWSIDE LEISURE CENTRE MANAGEMENT**  
**CONTRACT - EXEMPT APPENDICES**  
 (Report CAB2047 refers)

Cabinet considered the content of the exempt Appendices B to E of the Report.

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons set out above and outlined in the Report.

RESOLVED:

2. That the contents of the letter received from the Council's Mechanical and Electrical Services Consultant given in Exempt Appendix C of this report be noted.

3. That the contents of the letter received from the Council's Leisure Services Contractor DC Leisure given in Exempt Appendix D of this report be noted.

4. That an extended leisure management contract be entered into as set out in Exempt Appendix E with DC Leisure for the management of River Park Leisure Centre from 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2023 and Meadowside Leisure Centre from 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2023.

5. That authority be delegated to the Assistant Director (Active Communities), in consultation with the Head of Legal Services, Head of Finance and the Portfolio Holder for Economic Prosperity, to

determine the final detail of the contract terms and conditions, based on the details set out in Exempt Appendix E.

25. **75 HYDE STREET, WINCHESTER**  
(Report CAB2059 refers)

The above Report was not notified for inclusion on the agenda within the statutory deadline. The Chairman agreed to accept the item onto the agenda as a matter requiring urgent consideration, due to the need to consider the matter prior to its discussion at Principal Scrutiny Committee on 20 September 2010 and Council on 29 September 2010.

In addition, under the Council's Constitution Access to Information Procedure Rule 16 Special Urgency, this was a key decision which had not been included in the Forward Plan. Under this procedure, the agreement of the Chairman of Principal Scrutiny Committee had been obtained that the taking of the decision could not reasonably be deferred.

Cabinet considered the above Report which contained proposals regarding 75 Hyde Street, Winchester (detail in exempt minute).

26. **PROVISION OF FINANCE SUPPORT SERVICES AND IT SERVICES TO SOUTH EAST EMPLOYERS**  
(Report CAB2043 refers)

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons outlined in the Report.

RESOLVED:

1. That the renewal of the contract to supply finance support service to South East Employers for a period of five years, with effect from 1 October 2010, be approved.
2. That the award of the contract to supply IT services to South East Employers for a period of up to five years, with effect from 1 October 2010, be approved.

The meeting commenced at 9.30am and concluded at 12.05pm

Chairman