

**CABINET****22 October 2014****Attendance:**

Councillor Humby -	<i>Leader (Chairman) (P)</i>
Councillor Weston -	<i>Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Built Environment (Vice-Chairman) (P)</i>
Councillor Godfrey -	<i>Portfolio Holder for Finance &amp; Organisational Development (P)</i>
Councillor Miller -	<i>Portfolio Holder for Business Services (P)</i>
Councillor Southgate -	<i>Portfolio Holder for Communities &amp; Transport (P)</i>
Councillor Tait -	<i>Portfolio Holder for Housing Service(P)</i>
Councillor Warwick -	<i>Portfolio Holder for Environment, Health &amp; Wellbeing (P)</i>

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

Councillors J Berry, Evans, Learney, Pines, Scott and Weir

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**1. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Councillor Humby declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in respect of agenda items due to his role as a County Councillor. Councillor Godfrey declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in respect of agenda items due to his role as a County Council employee. However, as there was no material conflict of interest, they remained in the room, spoke and voted under the dispensation granted on behalf of the Standards Committee to participate and vote in all matters which might have a County Council involvement.

Councillor Southgate declared a personal, but not prejudicial, interest in items relating to the Museums Service in CAB2606, as the Council's nominated trustee on the Hampshire Cultural Trust and remained in the room, spoke and voted.

**2. MEMBERSHIP OF CABINET COMMITTEES****RESOLVED:**

That the appointments of the TACT representation on the Cabinet (Housing) Committee be amended as follows (new appointments shown in italics):  
Two TACT representations plus one deputy: Mrs J Steventon Baker,  
*Mr D Chafe (Mr D Light)*

3. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 10 September 2014, less exempt items and of the Special Cabinet meeting held 22 September 2014 be approved and adopted.

4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no questions asked/statements made.

5. **LEADER AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councillor Humby reported that the developer of Silver Hill (Hendersons) had announced that as part of the affordable housing statement submitted as part of their planning application they would guarantee a minimum of £1 million contribution towards off-site affordable housing. This contribution would increase by a further £1 million if a 15% profit level is achieved. This meant that the scheme would have additional development costs to bear. Councillor Humby emphasised that the Council, as landowner, had not made any changes to its financial arrangements with Hendersons in order to achieve this and the Council would still receive any overage due from the profits of the scheme on the same basis as before. The revised Silver Hill planning application would be determined at a Special meeting of the Planning Committee on 11 December 2014. In relation to the Council's position as landowner, Councillor Humby welcomed that, if the scheme was to go ahead, substantial sums would be made available towards affordable housing provision. He also thanked officers for their considerable work on the Silver Hill project to date.

Councillor Southgate reported that the County Council had recently announced proposed changes to bus subsidy levels which were unfortunately likely to have a negative impact on services within the Winchester District. In particular, the proposed removal of evening subsidies could effectively remove all bus services out of Winchester after 7pm.

6. **MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2015/16 – 2019/20**  
(Report CAB2606 refers)

Cabinet noted that the Report had not been made available for publication within the statutory deadline. The Chairman agreed to accept the item onto the agenda as a matter requiring urgent consideration, to allow Cabinet to comment on the content before consideration at The Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 27 October 2014.

Councillor Godfrey introduced the Report and drew Cabinet's attention to the main principles underlying the Strategy and the proposed changes. Section 6 of the Report set out the proposed revised 2014/15 budget.

With regard to the budget revision to make provision for the potential costs of defending a Judicial Review in relation to Silver Hill, the Chief Operating Officer advised that the Council had successfully defended its position at the first stage of the process and had been awarded £7,500 costs against the applicant. However, the Council had received papers from the applicant who had applied for the case to be escalated to a full hearing. Leading Counsel had advised that the Council's position was robust. The hearing should be dealt within a short time period, but the potential costs outlined could therefore still be required.

Councillor Godfrey highlighted that there was predicted to be a shortfall in the budget of approximately £4 million from 2019/20. Consequentially it was vital that the Council started to make plans as to how this could be addressed. In addition, decisions would have to be made about which major projects, if any, the Council wished to progress further as these could not be financed from reserves. Work on this would be on-going over the next few months with a view to further detail being included in the budget in February 2015.

Cabinet noted the success of the Chief Executive as Head of Paid Service in reducing employee costs as a consequence of vacancy management. Members also thanked the Council's employees for the high standard of work despite a reduction in numbers.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014 be approved, including the key principles to be applied to the General Fund Budget for 2015/16 and beyond.
2. That the Revenue and Capital Revised Estimates for 2014/15 be approved.

7. **ACCOUNTABLE BODY FOR FIELDFARE LEADER 2015-2021, LESS EXEMPT APPENDIX**

(Report CAB2622 refers)

Cabinet noted that the Report had not been made available for publication within the statutory deadline. The Chairman agreed to accept the item onto the agenda as a matter requiring urgent consideration, to allow a decision to be made without delay.

The Head of Economy and Arts highlighted the success of the Fieldfare LEADER scheme to date which had resulted in the allocation of approximately £870,000 of grants within the Winchester District. In response to questions, she advised that the new programme (across all three Districts) should result in £1.375 million of grants, 78 new jobs and 138 businesses being supported.

With regard to Paragraph 8.2, the Head of Economy and Arts clarified that although the Council would no longer be bank-rolling the grants payments, it would remain responsible for ensuring any grants awarded were in accordance with DEFRA rules.

The Head of Economy and Arts advised that she aimed to have clarification from the other local authorities involved within the next few weeks as to their level of contributions. This should reduce the supplementary revenue estimate of £25,000 per annum requested.

During discussion, Cabinet noted the benefits to the Council of having the two LEADER officers based within the Council offices and thanked the officers for their work to date.

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

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the Council continues to act as accountable body for the Fieldfare Local Action Group for the period 2015-2021.
2. That a supplementary revenue estimate of up to £25,000 per annum for the life of the programme (to March 2021) be agreed, in order to meet the anticipated operating costs of a successful programme.
3. That the financial implications in relation to staffing costs, as set out in Exempt Appendix, be noted.

**8. ELECTORAL REVIEW – SUBMISSION TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND REGARDING PROPOSED WARD BOUNDARIES**

The Chief Operating Officer advised that the cross party Electoral Review/Governance Informal Policy Group had undertaken work on a possible warding scheme for a 45 Member Council but, due to differing views within political groups, it would not be possible to submit a formal submission on a full warding scheme on behalf of the whole Council. It was likely that different submissions would be made by political parties direct to the Commission. However, following discussion between the Leader, Leader of the Opposition and the Chairman of the Group (Councillor Godfrey), it was proposed to submit a Report direct to Council which indicated areas of common agreement. He highlighted that the Commission had advised that it was now not unusual for a local authority to be unable to submit a scheme agreed by the whole Council.

Councillor Humby thanked Councillor Godfrey and other members of the Informal Policy Group for their work in examining proposed ward boundaries.

Councillor Godfrey reminded Members that political parties and anyone else (e.g. Parishes and members of the public) had until 3 November 2014 to make their own submissions direct to the Commission. The Council had been granted an extension to enable its submission to be agreed at Council on 6 November 2014.

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

**RECOMMENDED:**

**THAT COUNCIL CONSIDER A REPORT (SUBMITTED DIRECTLY TO ITS MEETING) INDICATING AREAS OF COMMON AGREEMENT ON THE ELECTORAL REVIEW FOR SUBMISSION TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND.**

9. **MINUTES OF THE CABINET (TRAFFIC AND PARKING) COMMITTEE HELD 8 SEPTEMBER 2014**  
(Report CAB2624 refers)

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

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Cabinet (Traffic and Parking) Committee held 8 September 2014 be received (as attached as Appendix A).

10. **MINUTES OF THE CABINET (HOUSING) COMMITTEE HELD 1 OCTOBER 2014, LESS EXEMPT MINUTE**  
(Report CAB2625 refers)

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

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Cabinet (Housing) Committee held 9 July 2014 be received, less exempt minute (as attached as Appendix B).

11. **FUTURE ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

RESOLVED:

That the list of future items, as set out in the Forward Plan for November 2014, be noted.

12. **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 Cabinet Meeting held 10 September 2014	) Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). (Para 3 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)
##	Exempt Minute of Cabinet (Housing) Committee held 1 October 2014	) Information relating to any individual. (Para 1 Schedule 12A refers)
##	Accountable Body for Fieldfare Leader 2015-2021, exempt appendix	) Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual. (Para 2 Schedule 12A refers)
		) 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)

13. **EXEMPT MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the exempt minutes of the Cabinet held 10 September 2014 be approved and adopted.

14. **MINUTES OF THE CABINET (HOUSING) COMMITTEE HELD 1 OCTOBER 2014, LESS EXEMPT MINUTE**

(Report CAB2625 refers)

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

RESOLVED:

That the exempt minutes of the Cabinet (Housing) Committee held 9 July 2014 be received (as attached as Appendix B).

15. **ACCOUNTABLE BODY FOR FIELDFARE LEADER 2015-2021 (EXEMPT APPENDIX)**

(Report CAB2622 refers)

Cabinet noted that 28 days notice had not been given of the intention to make this decision in exempt session. The Chairman of The Overview and Scrutiny Committee had given his authorisation to the meeting taking place in private.

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

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the exempt appendix be noted.

The meeting commenced at 10.00am and concluded at 10.45am

Chairman