

HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Association held at Portsmouth Civic Offices on Friday 10 July at 10.30 am.

Present

Basingstoke and Deane	Councillor Andrew Finney Dorcas Bunton
East Hampshire	Councillor Ferris Cowper Daphne Gardner (Deputy Chief Executive)
Fareham	Councillor Sean Woodward Peter Grimwood (Chief Executive)
Gosport	Councillor Mark Hook Councillor Peter Langdon Ian Lycett (Chief Executive)
Hampshire	Councillor Roy Perry Councillor Alan Rice Councillor Jonathan Glen Debbie Vaughan James Strachan (Assistant Director, Environment Strategy and Communications) Peter Errington
Hart	Councillor Kenneth Crookes
Havant	Councillor Tony Briggs
New Forest	Councillor Melville Kendal (Chairman) Councillor Barry Rickman Dave Yates (Chief Executive)
Portsmouth	Councillor Leo Madden Councillor Lee Mason David Williams (Chief Executive)
Rushmoor	Councillor Roland Dibbs Councillor Peter Moyle Andrew Lloyd (Chief Executive)
Southampton	Jon Wallace (Head of Policy and Performance)
Test Valley	Councillor Peter Giddings
Winchester	Councillor George Beckett Simon Eden (Chief Executive)
Hampshire Fire and Rescue	David Howells
Hampshire Police Authority	Councillor Adrian Collett (Vice-Chairman)

Hampshire Association of Local Councils	Councillor Sue Halstead
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:

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary	Alex Marshall QPM (Chief Constable)
Chair of the Living Places Partnership and Chief Executive of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council	Roy Clare CBE
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Criminal Justice Board	Emma Robertson (Business Manager)
Partnership for Urban South Hampshire	Charles Freeman (Quality of Place Delivery Manager)

13.09 **WELCOME**

Councillor Hugh Mason, Deputy Leader of Portsmouth City Council, welcomed all those present to the meeting

14.09 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Elizabeth Cartwright (East Hampshire); Councillor Keith House (Eastleigh); Councillor Ken Thornber (Hampshire); Councillor Jacqui Rayment (Hampshire Police Authority); Councillor David Gillett (Havant); Bob Blezzard (Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils); Councillor David Pugh (Isle of Wight Council); Ted Johnson (New Forest National Park Authority); Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson (Portsmouth); Councillor Royston Smith (Southampton); Councillor Ian Carr (Test Valley).

15.09 **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

Councillor Mel Kendal (New Forest) was appointed Chairman of the Association for the year 2009/2010.

16.09 **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

Councillor Ian Carr (Test Valley) was appointed Vice-Chairman of the Association for the year 2009/2010.

17.09 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 January 2009 were agreed.

In relation to minute 8.09 (Terms of Reference for the Joint Authorities' Gypsy and Traveller Panel) the Director requested that wording in the terms of reference should be altered from "attendance by the Gypsy Council" to "attendance by up to three

representatives of the local gypsy and traveller community as observers". This amendment was approved.

Councillor Glen (Hampshire) asked whether Learning and Skills would be brought to a future meeting. The Director reported that it had been included in the Association's Action Plan for the coming year.

18.09 **COMMUNITY SAFETY**

The Chairman introduced Alex Marshall, Chief Constable of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

Alex explained his role. He reported that the merging of Police forces was not now part of the Government's remit but collaboration between forces would be encouraged.

He reported that his task would be to reduce crime especially around alcohol induced violence, burglary, managing and monitoring high risk individuals (e.g. sex offenders) and anti social behaviour. The latter would be targeted especially during the summer months. He would be urging everyone to report incidences of anti social behaviour. It was important that criminals were caught and justice seen to be done. He felt that community policing was important.

He gave his support to Comprehensive Area Assessment and felt that there was a good synergy between Local Area Agreements and the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs). However he encouraged a tough look at CDRPs.

Alex also drew attention to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary targets and the pressure on frontline staff. He also talked about the Local Resilience Forum - which he chaired - and the Prevent agenda which targeted terrorism.

In relation to swine 'flu and other vital joint work he commented on how important it was for him to have Chief Executives personally signed up.

He promised to make himself available to local authorities and other bodies and wanted to be as visible as possible.

Gosport congratulated the police on their swift solving of the recent murders in Gosport. Concern was expressed at the police cells in the town being unavailable in the evenings. Alex agreed to look at this and keep it under review.

Portsmouth questioned the extent to which the Police could cut staff without affecting front line services and the role of street pastors as an aid to the police.

Winchester welcomed the references to alcohol-related crime and raised concerns about the problems licensing authorities faced. It was agreed that the matter be brought to a future meeting of the Association. The Chief Constable affirmed that he would be happy to support licensing authorities in a joint review.

The Chairman thanked Alex Marshall for his presentation.

19.09 LIVING PLACES, GROWING OUT OF RECESSION - THE IMPORTANCE OF CULTURAL LIFE IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Simon Eden, Chief Executive, Winchester City Council introduced the subject by saying how important the cultural life of a community was to its overall health.

Roy Clare then spoke about the Government's Living Places initiative with the Arts Council, Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment, English Heritage, Sport England and the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) which he led. Urban South Hampshire was one of the priority areas for the Living Places Partnership nationally.

Roy spoke about the importance of libraries in particular and the review currently being undertaken by Sue Charteris in the Wirral. He also spoke about the failure to see the importance of lifelong learning as a broad cultural agenda and described engaging young people with their heritage (including the importance of archives).

Roy described the Culture and Sport Planning Toolkit provided by "Living Places" and the importance of planning for culture and sport in new development.

East Hampshire commented on the opportunities available from the Living Places agenda and in response Roy outlined some of the other priority regions and projects for the Living Places Partnership.

Hampshire commented on the Discovery Centres in Winchester and Gosport, the potential of Sunday opening, the grant to the Mary Rose project and the importance of "out reach".

Roy then spoke about the need for evidence-based decisions and the expanded role of the MLA's research resources.

In conclusion the Chairman thanked Roy for attending and looked forward to a continuing fruitful relationship with the MLA and the Living Places Partnership.

20.09 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACT: PROPOSAL BY HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

James Strachan (Assistant Director, Environment Strategy and Communications at Hampshire County Council) introduced his report. He explained the Sustainable Communities Act, the current arrangements for regional planning, the changes proposed in his report and the consultations to date.

Councillor Roy Perry spoke on behalf of the County Council's proposal and gave statistics showing how little was known about the regional arrangements and how people wanted to have a more local, accountable and understandable system.

Winchester proposed an amendment to the proposition "to recover strategic planning powers to a local democratically accountable level".

East Hampshire's Cabinet opposed the proposal on grounds of the need for a strategic approach beyond the County boundary. In particular the need for improvement of the A325 was cited in relation to Whitehill/Bordon.

Other authorities, including Hampshire Association of Local Councils, generally supported the County Council's proposition with Winchester's amendment, or a variation suggested by Fareham "to a local level", bearing in mind the need for joint working with Portsmouth and Southampton in particular and neighbouring authorities in general.

In relation to East Hampshire's comments on planning for the A325, the Chairman said he would review this in his role as Environment Portfolio holder at the County Council.

RESOLVED

That the County Council proposal be approved subject to the County Council adopting an amendment similar to that proposed by Winchester.

21.09 LITTER FROM VEHICLES

Consideration was given to the report which had been requested by Councillor Andrew Finney of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.

Basingstoke and Deane as well as East Hampshire and Isle of Wight were among 100 or so local authorities behind the Keep Britain Tidy Campaign to alleviate the problem of litter being thrown from vehicles. Hampshire Fire and Rescue had suggested that any ban should include lighted cigarette ends which were known to cause verge fires during hot weather.

A national advertising campaign had been launched at the beginning of July.

The Local Government Association (LGA) had been lobbying on the issue for some years with difficulty and felt it was important that Members were sympathetic to the current campaign. A letter from the LGA to all local authority leaders requesting support was attached to the report.

RESOLVED

That the LGA be supported in this matter.

22.09 THE ASSOCIATION'S ACTION PLAN 2009-2010 AND ANNUAL REPORT

Consideration was given to a report by the Director which outlined areas of action for the coming year and updates on issues raised during the previous year.

Councillor Peter Moyle (Rushmoor), informed the meeting under "Improvement/Efficiency" (Point 1 on the Action Plan) of his email to all Members and Chief Executives dated 7 July. He drew attention to the new steering group of three Chief Executives from the north, central and the southern areas highlighted in the report. He also reported on stream-lining the interface between improvement work and Leaders by reporting direct to Association meetings.

Councillor George Beckett (Winchester) gave an update on the South East England Councils.

RESOLVED

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

23.09 "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's meeting on Thursday 29 October, which the Minister for the South East, Jonathan Shaw MP would be attending.

The Chairman was asked to write to John Denham MP, inviting him to a future meeting of the Association.

22.09 PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS 2010 AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Consideration was given to the report of the Director which set out the dates of Association meetings in 2010.

The report also gave details of the next meeting to be held on 29 October and suggested that the meeting on 25 September be cancelled.

It was also suggested that the Association would only need to meet in January, June and November in 2010 with the March and September meetings held in reserve. It was anticipated that these two dates would be Hampshire Senate meetings only with Senate meetings following the three other meetings.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the meeting originally scheduled for 25 September 2009 be cancelled;
- (2) That the date of the next meeting in Winchester Guildhall at 10.30 am on Thursday 29 October be noted; and
- (3) That the dates for meetings in 2010 set out in the report be approved.