

HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Association meeting held at Southampton Civic Centre on Friday 29 January 2010 at 10.00 am.

Present:

Basingstoke and Deane	Councillor Andrew Finney Tony Curtis (Chief Executive)
East Hampshire	Councillor David Parkinson Sandy Hopkins (Chief Executive)
Eastleigh	Councillor David Airey Councillor Anne Winstanley Bernie Topham (Chief Executive)
Fareham	Councillor Sean Woodward Peter Grimwood (Chief Executive)
Gosport	Councillor Graham Burgess Councillor Peter Langdon
Hampshire	Councillor Roy Perry Councillor Alan Rice Councillor Ken Thornber Councillor Margaret Snaith-Tempia Councillor Jonathan Glen Andrew Smith (Chief Executive) Ian Hoult (County Emergency Planning Officer)
Hart	Councillor Kenneth Crookes
Havant	Councillor Tony Briggs Sandy Hopkins (Chief Executive)
New Forest	Councillor Melville Kendal (Chairman) Councillor Edward Heron Dave Yates (Chief Executive)
Portsmouth	Councillor Donna Jones Jon Bell (Head of Audit and Performance)
Rushmoor	Andrew Lloyd (Chief Executive)
Southampton	Councillor Alec Samuels Brad Roynon (Chief Executive)
Test Valley	Councillor Ian Carr (Vice-Chairman) Councillor Peter Giddings Roger Tetstall (Chief Executive)

Winchester	Councillor John Cooper MBE Simon Eden (Chief Executive)
Hampshire Fire and Rescue	Councillor Royston Smith (Chairman) David Howells
Hampshire Police Authority	Councillor Adrian Collett (Vice-Chairman) Jenni Douglas-Todd (Chief Executive)
New Forest National Park Authority	Ted Johnson
Hampshire Association of Local Councils	Councillor Sue Halstead
Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils	Councillor Clive Fleury
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Government Association	Nick Goulder (Director) Diane Allen (PA to Director)
Also in attendance:	
Environment Agency	James Humphrys (Area Manager) Mark Tinnion (Regional Flood and Coastal Risk Manager)
Government Office for the South East	Howard Ewing (Deputy Director) Cathy Evans (Locality Manager)
Local Government Association	Mark Luntley (Programme Director for Finance and Performance)

1.10 **WELCOME**

The Worshipful the Mayor of Southampton, Councillor Elizabeth Mizon and Councillor Alec Samuels (Leader of the Council) welcomed all those present to the meeting.

2.10 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Elizabeth Cartwright (East Hampshire); Councillor Keith House (Eastleigh); Councillor Brian Dash (Hampshire); Councillor Jacqui Rayment (Hampshire Police Authority); Councillor David Pugh (Isle of Wight); Councillor Barry Rickman (New Forest); Ken Dufton (One Community); Councillors Leo Madden, Lee Mason and Jim Patey (Portsmouth); Councillor Peter Moyle (Rushmoor); Councillor Jeremy Moulton (Southampton) and Councillor George Beckett (Winchester)

3.10 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 October 2009 were approved.

4.10 **SECRETARY OF STATE**

The Chairman reported that the Rt Hon John Denham, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, had tendered his apologies and regretted he had another engagement in London.

5.10 **MANAGING FLOOD AND WATER EMERGENCIES**

The Chairman introduced Ian Hoult, Head of Emergency Planning, Hampshire County Council. Mr Hoult was joined by James Humphrys (Area Manager) and Mark Tinnion (Regional Flood and Coastal Risk Manager) of the Environment Agency.

Consideration was given to a report prepared by Mr Hoult in association with the Chief Executives' Group.

The report gave details of the review and findings of Sir Michael Pitt following the floods in 2007, the review by Government in 2008 and the draft Flood and Water Management Bill published in 2009.

The report highlighted issues arising from Pitt and the Bill.

In conclusion the report welcomed the Pitt report and the forthcoming Act.

Mr Hoult gave details of information and funding being made available for local authorities from DEFRA. He also reported that some of the corporate governance issues for the HIOW Flood and Water Management Board had yet to be finalised.

James Humphrys and Mark Tinnion from the Environment Agency talked about their work involving flood risk and management. They stressed the importance of climate change and preparing for a possible one metre rise in sea levels over the next century. They also explained how work on flood prevention could prove an excellent investment (it has been estimated that every £1 invested in flood defence provides protection worth £8). Closer working relationships with other agencies were vital. In particular they wanted the Environment Agency to work very closely with local authorities. They argued that more work was needed on surface water flood maps and management plans. They spoke about a special team called Solent Flood Risk 26 being developed by the Environment Agency to work with PUSH in delivering the South East Plan up to 2026.

James Humphrys congratulated Ian Hoult and the Local Resilience Forum on their work in Hampshire and Isle of Wight.

Various comments and questions were aired including:

- the value of working locally (e.g. Appleby in Cumbria) and keeping Parish Councils informed and involved
- the value of empowering individuals and working with landowners

- the importance of assisting developers to propose solutions when preparing planning applications. An information pack from the Environment Agency would be useful
- the importance of developing an integrated approach between relevant agencies.

Both Portsmouth and Southampton drew attention to the importance of economic development in the urban areas and the need to work closely with the Environment Agency to create a “yes, if” approach to sustainable development.

Ian Hoult, James Humphrys and Mark Tinnion responded to these concerns, drawing attention to the new legislation proposing to strengthen the duties of riparian landowners. James Humphrys in particular promised to follow up the concerns of Members and volunteered to speak to any Councils experiencing difficulty with Environment Agency procedures.

The Chairman thanked Ian, James and Mark for their presentations.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

6.10 REVIEW OF THE HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT LGA INCLUDING SUBSCRIPTIONS AND BUDGET FOR 2010/2011

Mr Dave Yates introduced his report which required a decision to be made on the continuance of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Government Association.

Recommendation one provided four options which could be pursued and, dependent on the outcome, recommendation two required the budget for 2010/11 to be approved on the basis of subscriptions continuing at the 2009/10 level.

The Chief Executives’ Group had been asked for its views on the options and Mr Yates reported that the Group valued the opportunity to work together at officer level across the whole HIOW area. While recognising the growing importance of the Senate and other sub-regional partnerships, a clear majority felt that it would be premature to abolish HIOW/LGA in advance of the general election and the further development of the Senate’s governance arrangements.

It was noted that if HIOW/LGA were to be abolished the subscriptions continuing at the 2009/10 level would be able to cover redundancy costs.

The following comments from Members were noted:

- the Senate encompassed a wider membership of public bodies and partnerships than the HIOW/LGA and was more suited to the concept of “Total Place” and if HIOW continued there would be a definite overlap with Senate membership;

- that HIOW meetings should be made public;
- that it would be premature to wind up HIOW's activities and organic growth was important at this stage;
- that there should not be duplicate meetings, but if the Senate continued it would need administrative support which could be provided by integrating the HIOW. It was felt that it would be premature to abolish the HIOW and Option C could work as integration would provide the best of both organisations;
- the HIOW should continue as it was and not be integrated within the Senate as it had a different emphasis to the Senate and not only had a good relationship with South Hants ie Southampton, Portsmouth, Eastleigh and the Isle of Wight, but could increase partnership working with Parish Councils.

After discussion and voting, it was:

RESOLVED

- (1) that the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Government Association should continue as now;
- (2) that the budget for 2010/11 be approved on the basis of subscriptions continuing at the 2009/10 level; and
- (3) that future HIOW/LGA meetings should be made public.

7.10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The annual meeting of the Association would be held in the Council Chamber, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council at 10.30 am. Separate rooms had been booked so that political group meetings could be held from 9.30 am.