

THE ASSOCIATION'S ACTION PLAN 2011-2012

BACKGROUND

1. The Association needs to agree an action plan for the year ahead. The draft Annual Report given in the Annex provides a review of our work over the past year as required by the Association's constitution.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION

2. The objectives of the Association are:-
 - To provide a means for facilitating co-operation between the constituent authorities;
 - To promote the interests of local government in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight;
 - To assist member authorities in the effective performance of their duties and functions;
 - To pursue issues of common concern to member authorities and to represent their joint interests to other bodies;
 - To develop effective relationships with regional organisations; and
 - To provide a forum for exchange of ideas and experience across member authorities.

CONTEXT

3. Given these objectives the Association aims to support local partnerships developing between member authorities, improve performance and develop shared services architecture. Partnerships of particular importance are:
 - The Hampshire Senate
 - Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH)

Also in the last year two new partnerships have been set up successfully in accordance with new Government guidelines. These are the Solent and M3 Local Economic Partnerships. They constitute an important new development in joint working across our area.

We also work with the Local Government Group at national level and a range of regional and more local bodies. Training, development and human resource joint working is provided by our partners South East Employers. Also at a regional level the Association has received regular briefings on South East England Councils and its associated Leaders' Board and Partnership Board.

PROPOSED ACTION PLAN 2011-2012

4. The Chief Executives' Group proposes that the Association aims this year to:
 - Develop the Association's work with Hampshire and Isle of Wight professional officer groups
 - Continue to work on areas of joint interest across authorities including for example climate change* and crime reports

- Consider new and proposed legislation, in particular
 - Police and Social Responsibility Bill
 - NHS Reform
 - Public Health White Paper
 - Flood and Water Management Act
 - Public Service Reform White Paper
 - Finance matters e.g. sharing information on the potential to recover some portion of non-domestic rates for local authorities
- Further develop shared services to achieve economies of scale
- Continue to work with partners to ensure the successful development of NHS management and public health in the area
- Further review the role/staffing of the Association at the budget meeting in January 2012.
- * Note: Chris Huhne, Secretary of State for Climate Change and Energy, is due to attend the next Association meeting.

5. ANNUAL REPORT

The draft Annual Report, set out in the Annex, outlines the work of the Association over the past year. Subject to comments by Members, it is recommended that this Annual Report be published as required by the Association's Constitution on the Association's website.

HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT LGA
July 2011

HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2010 -2011

THE ASSOCIATION

1. The Association provides infrastructure for joint working across the 19 Hampshire and Isle of Wight local authorities. The total of 19 includes 11 District Councils and Hampshire County Council, three Unitary Authorities, one Police Authority, the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority and New Forest National Park Authority. Local (Parish and Town) Council Associations are also members. Isle of Wight Council formally withdrew from the Association at the end of May 2011. Portsmouth City Council has given notice that it may withdraw from May 2012. Discussions are being held with South Downs National Park Authority about membership.

WORK OF THE ASSOCIATION

2. The Association's work is guided by meetings of leading elected councillors from all member authorities. Partner organisations regularly attend these meetings.

NETWORKS AND PURPOSE

3. The Association works through networks of inter-authority staff. Some 30 groups listed on our website include Planning and Transport Chief Officers, Strategic Housing, Chief Finance Officers and Chief Environmental Health Officers. These inter-authority groups:
 - provide policy management and support for Members
 - report to Association meetings when necessary
 - consider the impact of new legislation and other changes
 - develop contacts with regional bodies
 - help the Association look after the interests of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

The work of these groups is co-ordinated through the Chief Executives' Group which appoints lead officers to head up work in key areas of achievement. Lead officers are listed in Appendix 1.

4. The Association works alongside and supports other local networks such as the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH), the Hampshire Senate, the Solent and M3 Local Economic Partnerships. The Association has also supported the development of more local partnerships between its members. Much of the joint work was developed across the Hampshire area during the year by the Senate e.g. rural broadband, area-based home insulation and "Project Adapt" and by PUSH e.g. work on sustainable development. This joint work is reported separately by those organisations.

KEEPING COSTS DOWN

5. The extensive engagement of individual Members, Chief Executives and other staff of member authorities, particularly those that agree to lead work across the area has meant that the Association's direct permanent staff resources continue to be limited to less than two full time equivalent.

FUNDING

6. The Association is a voluntary subscription-based membership organisation. Subscriptions are £5,000 a year for District Councils, £7,500 for Unitary Authorities and £10,000 for the County Council. Other authorities normally pay at the District Council rate. Over the years since its inception in 1997 the Association's subscriptions have undershot inflation. The original subscriptions in that year were: £4,400 for a District, £6,600 for a Unitary and £8,800 for the County Council. Linked to any of the price indices, a District Council annual subscription would now be well over £6,000. Having said that all costs are currently the subject of radical review and we plan to avoid any increase in subscriptions following the Isle of Wight withdrawal of funding.

REVIEW OF 2010/11

7. The following section reviews the work of the Association during the year.

(1) Working with the Coalition Government

The Association worked with the LG Group to advise the new Government in 2010 on its programme and in particular to back devolution to local communities. At its June 2010 meeting the Association asked all authorities to list the “red tape” they would like to remove. The final list is shown on our website.

(2) Financial retrenchment and joint working

The Association assisted authorities with severe financial retrenchment following the Coalition Government's spending review. This was achieved by sharing experience through joint officer groups and by developing economies through joint working. The latter has manifested itself in joint contracts (e.g. Hampshire Public Services Network - HPSN2 - for voice and data communications) and by strategic procurement savings estimated at £1.2m by the HIOW Procurement Partnership.

Joint working has also resulted in a multiplicity of local sharing arrangements between authorities e.g. the Public Service Village in Havant and the joint waste collection contracts between Winchester and East Hampshire and between Basingstoke and Deane and Hart.

The Chief Executives Group has carried out a review of joint work with the joint officer groups. Chief Financial Officers, HR, IT Managers and other groups have attended Chief Executive Group meetings to discuss priorities across the area.

(3) NHS, Health and Wellbeing

The Association has been working on three separate aspects of the health and wellbeing agenda

- Monitoring and supporting changes locally to the management of the NHS
- Preparing for local authorities' new role in public health
- Supporting a bid for a “Healthwatch” pilot across the HIOW area.

(4) Community Safety

Authorities are continuing to work together to prepare for the many impending changes in governance. This will be an important area of work next year.

(5) Emergency Planning

The Chief Executives' Group received updates from the HIOW Local Resilience Forum detailed both on the Cabinet Office and Hampshire County Council websites. The Group also assisted lead Chief Executive Peter Grimwood (Fareham) on implementation of the Flood and Water Management legislation which was discussed at the full Association meeting in January 2010. Regulations under this legislation are now being developed and it will remain an important area of joint work next year.

(6) Waste Management

The Association instigated a full review of the work of the waste management partnership Project Integra. The review was discussed at the January 2011 Association meeting, when members agreed a report to go to all the Project Integra partners. Responses are now being analysed and the Project Integra Board will be considering the outcome later in July 2011.

(8) Preparation for the Olympics

The Association received a report on preparation for the 2012 Olympics at the Annual Meeting in July 2011.

(9) Gypsy and Traveller Policies

The Association's Gypsy and Traveller Panel plans to meet to consider the need to update the 2006 accommodation assessment for gypsy, traveller and travelling show communities in the light of new Government guidelines expected on strategic planning.

OTHER ISSUES ARISING IN 2010-2011

8. Members considered the changes to the concessionary bus fares scheme in Hampshire at their meeting in January 2011. They also heard from the Local Government Association about the re-organisation into the new LG Group. In addition the Association invited Richard Ashworth MEP to attend a discussion on European legislation (update following 15 July 2011).

APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

9. The Association's Appointments Panel appointed members to those bodies shown in Appendix 2. The Panel consisted of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Association plus Councillors Anne Winstanley (Eastleigh) and Jane Frankum (Hampshire). The Panel has prepared a separate report to the 2011 Annual Meeting.

ORGANISATION AND COSTS

10. The Association meets regularly at Member level and is managed in between meetings by the Director and Personal Assistant, and Lead Chief Executive for Association Business (Dave Yates, New Forest).

11. The Association's papers are shown on our website (www.hiow.gov.uk) including the full costs of the Association reported in January 2011. Details include a line showing expenses under the heading 'travel and subsistence'.
12. The Chairman of the Association elected for the year was Councillor Ian Carr of Test Valley Borough Council. The Vice-Chairman was Councillor Sean Woodward of Fareham Borough Council.
13. The Association employed one full time Director, Nick Goulder, and a part time Personal Assistant/Office Administrator/Web Editor, Diane Allen. These staff are based at Civic Offices, Eastleigh on a fully-refunded basis. Eastleigh Borough Council provides the Association's accountancy and office support services (all fully re-funded). The Borough Treasurer, Nick Tustian, is the Association's Treasurer. The Isle of Wight Council Chief Finance Officer, Dave Burbage, was the Association's Auditor and handed over to New Forest Executive Director (Finance), Bob Jackson, with the Island Council formally leaving the Association in May 2011.
14. This is Nick Goulder's last annual report. His letter to the Chairman is given at Appendix 3.

Date: 1 July 2011

Appendices: 3

GLOSSARY

HIOW	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Government Association
HPSN2	Hampshire Public Services Network
LG Group	Local Government Group (the national body - formerly LGA)
NHS	National Health Service
PUSH	Partnership for Urban South Hampshire

HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION DISTRICT COUNCIL LEAD OFFICERS	
Subject	Lead Officers
Association Business	Dave Yates
Chief Executives' Group - Chair	Andrew Lloyd
Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership	Dave Yates/Simon Eden
Community Safety	Andrew Lloyd/Sandy Hopkins
Culture/Creativity	Simon Eden/Roger Tetstall
Economic Development/Hampshire Economic Partnership/Skills	Andrew Lloyd/Ian Lycett/Simon Eden
Emergency Planning/Flooding and Water Management	Peter Grimwood
Gypsies and Travellers	Daryl Phillips
Hampshire LAA Executive	Bernie Topham/Andrew Lloyd/Dave Yates/Ian Lycett leading on Theme D, housing)
Hampshire Rural Forum	Dave Yates
Health and Wellbeing, NHS	Dave Yates/Bernie Topham
HIOW HR Group	Dave Yates
Information Technology and Management	Roger Tetstall
Planning and Integrated Transport at the HIOW level (most is sub-regional or regional)	Simon Eden/Tony Curtis
South East Region Chief Executives' Advisory Group	Simon Eden
Supporting People	Dave Yates
Sustainability and Climate Change	Sandy Hopkins
Waste/Project Integra	Tony Curtis

APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES 2010-2011

Outside Body	Representative(s)	Local Authority	Political Party
Hampshire Association of Local Councils	Councillor Alan Rice	New Forest	Conservative
Hampshire Buildings Preservation Trust	Councillor Nick Walker Councillor Tim Davies Councillor Eleanor Bell	Fareham Hart Winchester	Conservative Conservative Lib Dem
Hampshire Economic Partnership	Councillor John Leek	Basingstoke and Deane	Conservative
Hampshire Playing Fields Association	Councillor Tony Ward Councillor Patricia Stallard	Test Valley Winchester	Conservative Conservative
	Councillor Keith Chapman	Basingstoke and Deane	Conservative
	Councillor Paul Hickman	New Forest	Lib Dem
Hampshire County Council Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Councillor Marion Kerley Councillor Ray Love Councillor Dennis Wright Councillor Tim Southern	Test Valley Winchester Gosport Hart	Conservative Lib Dem Labour Conservative
Hampshire Pension Fund Panel	Councillor Peter Giddings	Test Valley	Conservative
	Councillor Ian Carr (Deputy)	Test Valley	Conservative
	Councillor Jeremy Moulton* (deputy - Councillor Donna Jones)*	Southampton Portsmouth	Conservative Conservative
Solent and South Downs Area Environment Group	Councillor Brian Bayford	Fareham	Conservative
Hampshire Rural Forum	Councillor Maureen Holding	New Forest	Conservative

* Appointed by Portsmouth and Southampton City Councils jointly

APPENDIX 3

1 July 2011

Open letter to the Chairman of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight LGA, Councillor Ian Carr, Leader of Test Valley Borough Council.

Dear Ian

I am lucky enough to be able to retire at a time of my own choosing - October 2011 - and this will be my last scheduled meeting of the Association.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank members and staff of local government throughout this diverse area for their support. Localism is alive and well here, but what impresses most is the willingness of elected members and senior staff from one authority to work for the benefit of all.

I would like to thank you and Vice Chairman Seán Woodward for your support. I would also like to thank previous Chairmen such as Keith House, Elizabeth Cartwright and Peter Moyle.

The Annual Report lists those “Lead Officers” without whom the Association could not function so successfully. I would like to thank all of them, and in particular Dave Yates who has been an outstanding “boss” and Bernie Topham, my host Chief Executive at Eastleigh who has managed to continue a tradition that makes Eastleigh the friendliest workplace I have ever witnessed.

I would like to thank all those “professional officer groups” which work behind the scenes to create coherent governance across this multi-faceted region, and I pay tribute to the heads of service at Eastleigh - Tony Hall, Loraine Radford, Tony Wright, Peter Baldry and colleagues - who have always provided me with up to date professional advice and guidance. Eastleigh has also provided the Association with the first class support of Sally Buckell (Accounts) and Tina Uppal (HR) plus others such as IT.

Finally I must mention Diane Allen who has helped me in this work since the Association was set up in 1997.

I will continue to live in the area and look forward to exploring its rich heritage with more leisure.

Yours sincerely

Director