

# Minutes



To: All Members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, Chief Executive, Chief Officers, All officers named for 'actions'

From: Legal, Democratic & Statutory Services  
Ask for: Michelle Diprose  
Ext: 25566

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## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 27 JANUARY 2016 AND WEDNESDAY, 3 FEBRUARY 2016

### ATTENDANCE

#### MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

R H Beeching (Substitute for K Crofton) J Billing, M Cowan (Vice-Chairman), D J Hewitt (Substitute for C Clapper), T W Hone (Chairman), T R Hutchings, A Joynes (Vice-Chairman), G McAndrew, D E Lloyd, D T F Scudder

#### OTHER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

D Andrews, D A Ashley, J R Barfoot, R H Beeching, N Bell, F Button, M S Crawley, T L F Douris, E M Gordon, D Hart, C M Hayward, T C Heritage, R J Henry, F R G Hill, T Hunter, T R Hutchings, S L C Johnston, P F J Knell, P V Mason, G McAndrew, M D M Muir, I M Reay, L F Reefe, R M Roberts, P Ruffles, R Sangster, R H Smith, A Stevenson, R A C Thake, R G Tindall, A S B Walkington, M A Watkin, J D Williams, C B Wyatt-Lowe, W J Wyatt-Lowe, P Zukowskyj

#### PARENT GOVERNOR / CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES (VOTING)

R Osterley

Upon consideration of the agenda for the Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting on Wednesday, 27 January 2016 and Wednesday, 3 February 2016 as circulated, copy annexed, conclusions were reached and are recorded below.

*Note: No conflicts of interest were declared by any member of the Committee in relation to the matters on which conclusions were reached at this meeting.*

#### PART I ('OPEN') BUSINESS

#### MINUTES

The Minutes of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 11 December 2015 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**1(A) INTEGRATED PLAN PROPOSALS 2016/17 – 2019/20 –  
27 January 2015**

[Officer contact: Natalie Rotherham, Scrutiny Officer Tel: 01992 558485]

- 1.1 The Chairman welcomed all Members and officers present to the Committee's scrutiny of the Integrated Plan proposals for 2016/17 – 2019/20.
- 1.2 Members received an introduction to the scrutiny; a summary by the Scrutiny Officer, reminding Members of the format for the Committee's scrutiny; and an oral report from the Assistant Director of Finance, Resources & Performance who provided the Committee with the context within which the integrated plan proposals had been prepared. Members were informed that since the Governments Final Settlement announcement in December 2015, the core funding for 2016/17 had been significantly reduced by a further £24m, and although substantial efficiency savings had been identified, a further saving of £38.4m in 2017/18 rising to £71.4m by 2019/20 was required to meet the budget gap.
- 1.3 The Committee then adjourned to gather its evidence.
- 1.4 At the end of the evidence gathering process the session closed.

**1(B) SCRUTINY OF THE INTEGRATED PLAN PROPOSALS 2016/17 –  
2019/20: REPORT TO CABINET - 3 February 2016**

[Officer contact: Natalie Rotherham, Scrutiny Officer Tel: 01992 558485]

- 1.5 The Committee reconvened on Wednesday, 3 February 2016 to consider a draft of its report to Cabinet, prepared by the Scrutiny Officer and the Democratic Services Manager, following the evidence gathering session on 27 January 2016.
- 1.6 As a result of its discussions, a report and suggestions for Cabinet's consideration were agreed, copies of this report can be viewed at <https://cmis.hertsdirect.org/hertfordshire/Calendarofcouncilmeetings/t/abid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/365/Committee/6/Default.aspx>
- 1.7 Members noted that Cabinet would consider the Committee's report and suggestions at its meeting on 22 February 2016; Cabinet's

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recommendations on the Integrated Plan proposals would then be presented to the County Council on 23 February 2016, when the Council would agree it's Integrated Plan for forthcoming period.

- 1.8 A list of 'information requests' and a list of 'proposed future scrutinies' for inclusion in the Committee's work programme, identified during the evidence gathering process, were noted (attached as Appendices 1 and 2); these will be considered by Members at the Committee's meeting on 20 April 2016.

Natalie  
Rotherham  
/  
Michelle  
Diprose

### **Conclusions**

- 1.9 The Committee agreed the draft report to Cabinet subject to its comments and suggestions being revised to read:-

#### **“Committee Comments**

##### **Options for meeting the budget shortfall of £1.665m for 2015/16**

1. The Committee suggested that further evaluation be undertaken before any reductions are made to the Member Locality Budget and that consideration should be given amalgamating the Member Locality Budget and the Member Highways Budget.
2. Members suggested combining with 5% reduction overall to achieve the required budget cut and a minimum £85k Highways spend and £10k maximum Locality spend
3. There were no other comments on the potential options identified by Cabinet for meeting the budget shortfall in 2016/17.

#### **Committee Suggestions**

That Cabinet gives consideration to the following:-

1. Assessing the impact on the Council's services of the changing demographics in the County so that future pressures and challenges can be addressed through detailed service plans and within the financial constraints within which the Council is operating.
2. Improving and strengthening partnership working through the further development of the relationships between all County Council departments and their stakeholders, including Health, the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), other tiers of local government and the voluntary sector.

3. Investigating how localism and devolution activities can directly involve partners, particularly lower-tier authorities, rather than being driven in a 'top-down' manner; and how they can be used to better support local economic development and prosperity. Members would welcome Highways Together options being extended to district and borough councils where possible.
4. Enabling smaller and medium sized local businesses to better understand the County Council's procurement processes to promote the local economy.
5. Investigating what further departmental and cross-portfolio/partnership working opportunities exist to ensure utilisation of the expertise and experience of trained officers (e.g. Fire & Rescue former frontline officers) / staff (e.g. Highways officers drafting Traffic Regulation Orders) across different services to generate future savings and service resilience.
6. Continuing to look for opportunities to maximise the use of the Council's assets:
  - (a) To ensure the most appropriate sites are used for services, including co-location e.g. retained fire stations and libraries
  - (b) To further encourage services and partners to share accommodation
  - (c) To ensure rental charges help address budget challenges
  - (d) To examine ways of increasing business and income through County Council traded services.
7. Developing a clear strategy for encouraging and supporting volunteering across services and providing further support for stakeholders and volunteers in helping deliver services for the community.
8. Encouraging bus companies and community transport providers to maintain routes after Hertfordshire County Council subsidies have been withdrawn.
9. As a matter of urgency, Hertfordshire Leaders Group and Hertfordshire Infrastructure and Planning Partnership ( HIPP) address the strategic infrastructure planning issues,

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particularly with regard to housing development, to assess future budgetary implications for the Council arising from inadequate setting of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

10. Transferring the Dial-A-Ride service from Environment to Adult Care and Health and lowering the qualifying age limit for those able to use the service to 60.
11. All future portfolio papers clarify statutory and non-statutory obligations and priorities within the Service's financial constraints

The Committee also requested that Cabinet and Cabinet Panels note its comments below:-

#### Children's Services

1. That waiting times for the Family Safeguarding Project be reviewed and improved.
2. That the recording of asylum seeking children be reviewed.
3. That the transition from Statement to Education Health & Care Plan implications inform service provision and development e.g. changing needs are identified

#### Community Safety and Waste Management

4. That the risks and uncertainties associated with legislative change, changes to residents life-style and waste generation, feature in the proposals to manage Hertfordshire's residual waste, be reviewed in detail.

#### Environment, Planning and Transport

5. That the impact on the budget of removing trees across County owned land be investigated so that provision can be put in place to meet the cost of this potential risk.

#### Highways

6. That the potential for carrying out project work concurrently rather than the current step by step approach; and undertaking work concurrently with partners, be explored to improve future cost efficiencies and customer experience.
7. That Government be lobbied with a view to making public highways data from other local authorities available to assist with benchmarking as these data are not available in the public

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**2. OTHER PART I BUSINESS**

2.1 There was no other business.

**REPORT TO COUNTY COUNCIL**

A summary of item 1 will be reported to the County Council at its meeting on 23 February 2016.

Michelle  
Diprose/  
Elaine Shell

**KATHRYN PETTITT,  
CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER**

**CHAIRMAN** \_\_\_\_\_

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