

**A MEETING OF THE POLICY AND ORGANISATION BOARD WAS HELD
ON 29 JUNE 2011**

The Mayor (Councillor Carter, C R) (ex-officio); Councillors Beavis (P), Burgess (P), Chegwyn, Mrs Forder (P), Hook (Chairman) (P), Lane (P), Langdon (P), Philpott (P), Smith (P) and Wright (P).

6. APOLOGIES

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were submitted on behalf of the Mayor and Councillor Chegwyn.

7. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at the start of the meeting.

8. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE BOARD HELD ON 1 FEBRUARY, 17 AND 19 MAY 2011, GRANTS SUB BOARD HELD ON 16 FEBRUARY 2011, GOSPORT COASTLINE EDITORIAL PANEL HELD ON 10 FEBRUARY 2011, CIVIC AND COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS SUB BOARD HELD ON 10 MARCH 2011, PERSONNEL SUB BOARD HELD ON 4 APRIL 2011 AND EMERGENCY SUB BOARD HELD ON 8 APRIL 2009

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meetings of the Board held on 1 February, 17 and 19 May 2011, Grants Sub Board held on 16 February 2011, Gosport Coastline Editorial Panel held on 10 February 2011, Civic and Commemorative Events Sub Board held on 10 March 2011, Personnel Sub Board held on 4 April 2011 and Emergency Sub Board held on 8 April 2009 be approved and signed by the Chairman as true and correct records.

9. DEPUTATIONS

No deputations were received.

10. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

PART II

11. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2011/12 – 2015/16

Consideration was given to a report of the Financial Services Manager on the above. The Board was requested to consider the updated Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2011/12 – 2015/16 as outlined in Appendix 1 to the report.

The Council reviewed and approved the Medium Term Financial Strategy each year. Following the recent completion of the budget cycle for 2011/12, it was timely to review the strategy prior to the consideration of a budget strategy for 2012/13 by the Board later in the year.

It was reported that projections contained in the Medium Term Financial Strategy indicated that the Council's General Fund budget requirements would remain relatively stable over the next 4 years following the action taken during the last 12 months to reduce commitments and work with reducing Exchequer support.

RESOLVED: That the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2011/12 – 2015/16 as outlined in Appendix 1 to the Manager's report be approved.

12. TRANSPARENCY – PUBLICATION OF ADDITIONAL DATA REGARDING MEMBER INTERESTS, ATTENDANCE ETC

Consideration was given to a cross reference from the Standards and Governance Committee (23 June 2011) which requested that the Board give final consideration to the report submitted initially to the Committee on the above; together with officers submitting examples of what other local authorities presented on their websites in these areas.

The Board had circulated to it a summary table of the requested comparison investigation by officers on websites for Hampshire County Council, Portsmouth City Council, Fareham Borough Council, Havant Borough Council and Gosport Borough Council. The summary showed that Gosport was in line with its neighbouring local authorities, with the exception of the County Council, in not officially recording in individual table form on its website, attendance at meetings. Similarly all three District Councils did not include on their websites individual Councillor Financial Interests/Gifts and Hospitality.

The Chief Executive's report advised that as previously reported by the Monitoring Officer, the Government had produced a number of consultation documents relating to the transparency agenda for the publication of information by local authorities but at this moment in time there was no legislative requirement for the Council to publish or to publish in any particular manner information related to Members attendance at meetings or their register of interest.

There was a consensus amongst Board members that the council should be as transparent as it possibly could on how councillors served their community. Therefore it was recommended that attendance at meetings, training events, civic events and the recording of financial interests (including gifts and hospitality) be recorded on the council's website. An explanatory rider was also to be added that such activities formed only a part of a councillor's duties; much more detailed work being carried out in individual Wards and for the community as a whole. A web link also to be provided to a councillor's role and responsibilities under the constitution.

RESOLVED: That the Council publishes on its website individual Councillor's:

- attendance at meetings
- Financial interests (including Gifts & Hospitality)

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- attendance at training events
- attendance at civic events

The meeting ended at 6.15 pm.

CHAIRMAN