

REPORT FROM THE DEPUTY LEADER AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CORPORATE RESOURCES TO THE MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY, 22 FEBRUARY 2017

I was appointed to this portfolio on 20 January 2017 so have held it for just a month.

The immediate priority was to work with newly appointed colleagues and with senior officers to consider and determine options for delivering a legal and balanced budget in accordance with the recently approved Medium Term Financial Strategy approved by this council in October 2016. In doing so, I worked with Executive colleagues to preserve funding to meet statutory need, allocate money where that leveraged additional funding from elsewhere and yet still allow non statutory services to be delivered, all whilst finding sufficient reductions to meet the identified £7.5 million saving.

There was less than a couple of weeks in which to do that and so for the first part of the month my attention was substantially focused on budget discussions.

Those budget proposals form the main item for this meeting.

The remainder of the time has been spent in developing an understanding of the breadth of the portfolio, which covers finance, staffing, property, IT, legal and democratic services, as well as other minor elements.

I have received briefings on current issues and on specific items such as property disposals.

I have been involved in discussions on a range of development issues, and as deputy leader have also attended meetings on behalf of the leader, notably with the leaders and chief executives of Solent authorities about a potential different shape of a devolution deal.

To provide continuity I have retained membership of other committees where membership does not conflict with Executive responsibilities.

Councillor Stuart Hutchinson
Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources