

3 OCTOBER 2001
NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL
CABINET

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Wednesday, 3 October 2001.

p Cllr S A Hayes (Chairman)
p Cllr M J Kendal (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors:

p P H Cummings
p T J Droogleever
p P C Greenfield

Councillors:

p Mrs M D Holding
p B Rickman
p C A Wise

In Attendance:

Councillors:

K F Ault
D S Burdle
W R Catt
F R Harrison
J D Heron

Councillors:

Mrs M Humber BA
Mrs M J Robinson
Mrs B Smith
N L T Smith
S S Wade

Also Present:

Mr B Birks and Mrs B White – Tenant Representatives

Officers Attending:

D Yates, N Gibbs, Ms E Malcolm, C Malyon, G Ashworth, D Atwill, Ms J Bateman, Mrs L Evans, N Hunt, C Michalski, Miss G O'Rourke, R Payne, J Ward and N Williamson.

84. MINUTES.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2001, having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

85. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Members declared interests as follows:-

Cllr N L T Smith – Minute 99

86. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

No issues were raised during the public participation period.

87. PROPOSED NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK – COUNTRYSIDE AGENCY CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS (REPORT A).

The Cabinet considered the comments of the joint meeting of the Corporate and Finance and Economy and Planning Review Panels. The Panels supported the original response to the Countryside Agency and in addition made two further suggestions. Firstly the need for close liaison and partnership working between a New Forest National Park Authority and Town and Parish Councils; and secondly the need to recognise the issue of partnership working in the preparation of the Local Transport Plan.

The Cabinet also noted that the Council were receiving a number of copies of responses that outside organisations had made to the Countryside Agency. Members suggested that it would be useful to provide an overview of responses received to inform the Government of the balance of local feeling.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the additions to this Council's response to the Countryside Agency as recommended by the Corporate & Finance and Economy & Planning Review Panels, and as set out in the amended report attached at Appendix 2, to Report A to the Cabinet be agreed; and
- (b) Where copies of responses to the Countryside Agency, from outside organisations are sent to the Council, officers will prepare an overview of the comments and send them to the Countryside Agency.

88. FLOODING AND THE COUNCIL'S LAND DRAINAGE STRATEGY (REPORT B).

The Cabinet considered the final report on the autumn and winter flooding of 2000/2001 and a proposed revised land drainage strategy document and land drainage policy.

Members expressed concern that officers were still encountering difficulties in dealing with Southern Water. Members were of the view that they were not playing an active enough role in combating flooding, particularly in relation to foul sewerage drainage.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Land Drainage Strategy Document and Land Drainage Policy as detailed in Report B to the Cabinet be approved; and

- (b) That a copy of the report be sent to Southern Water with a covering letter expressing the Council's concern that Southern Water are not playing an active enough role in combating flooding.

89. RUSHINGTON GREENROUTE EXTENSION : TOTTON (REPORT C).

Members noted the progress made on the Rushington Greenroute Extension Project to create a link from Bartley Park and the West Totton Greenroute Network to the centre of Totton.

Feasibility work undertaken confirmed that the extension of the Greenroute Network was now possible and the opportunity therefore existed to secure the implementation of this important priority scheme in the Council's Developers' Contributions Open Space implementation Programme.

The Project had been considered by the Totton and Eling Town Council on 19 September 2001. Officers reported that the Town Council had reservations over the implementation of the Scheme and wanted to undertake a public consultation immediately, before they came to a view on the scheme.

Members commented that a great deal of time and effort had been invested in the feasibility work undertaken so far and they expressed disappointment that the Town Council was not more supportive.

RESOLVED:

That Totton and Eling Town Council be asked to re-consider this matter and come to an agreement on the provision of the Rushington Greenroute extension as soon as possible.

90. ESTABLISHMENT OF A LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FOR THE DISTRICT.

Members noted that responses were still being received on the Consultation Document for the establishment of a Local Strategic Partnership for the District. Responses received so far were generally supportive. A further report would be made back to Cabinet in November and it was likely that the first meeting of the partnership would then take place later in that month.

RESOLVED:

That the progress being made on the establishment of a Local Strategic Partnership for the District be noted.

91. NEW FOREST DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN ALTERATIONS – HOUSING NEEDS AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING (REPORT D).

The Cabinet considered changes to the Council's policies relating to 'Housing Needs and Affordable Housing', as set out in the Local Plan.

Members noted that there were significant problems of housing need and affordability in the New Forest District and the recommended changes to the Council's policies would assist in responding to the District's housing need.

RECOMMENDED

- (i) That the proposed alterations to the policies of the adopted New Forest District Local Plan on 'Housing Needs and the provision of Affordable Housing', as set out in Annex 1 to Report D to the Cabinet, be agreed and formally placed on deposit for public consultation;*
- (ii) That the Director of Environment Services be authorised to make any necessary further minor amendments, including consequential changes and further editing changes, in preparing the proposed alterations for publication; and*
- (iii) That the Proposed Alterations in Annex 1 to Report D to the Cabinet be adopted as Council policy for development control purposes.*

92. GREEN TRANSPORT PLAN (REPORT E).

The Cabinet noted the progress made to date on the preparation of a Green Transport Plan (GTP); the key elements that should be included and the resources needed to enable progress to be made within an agreed timescale.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That, in consultation with Employee Side Representatives, a draft Green Transport Plan be prepared in 2002/03 as set out in Report E to the Cabinet;
- (b) That, subject to the approval of the expenditure plan bid, the Director of Environment Services be given delegated authority to implement during 2002/03 both a programme of low cost measures to make walking, cycling and public transport more attractive for Employees and Members going to Council premises together with a scheme to encourage car sharing; and
- (c) That a further report be prepared in 2002/03 to consider an Expenditure Plan bid to enable a GTP to be implemented in 2003/04.

93. TRANSPORT INITIATIVES – POSITION STATEMENT AUGUST 2001 (REPORT F).

The Cabinet considered a review of a number of transport initiatives that addressed transport poverty in rural areas.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the following initiatives be supported with revised costs as set out in Appendix 1 to Report F to the Cabinet:
- Young persons concessionary fares
 - Moped loan scheme
 - Evening taxi trips for young people
 - Contributions to parish rural transport schemes
 - Low cost transport measures (health partnership working)
 - Calshot youth links
 - Calshot clubs links
 - Concessionary fares scheme for the elderly etc.
 - Improving public footpaths
 - Community transport/grants for dial a ride
 - Measures to encourage cycling
- (b) That financial support no longer be given to the “Evening Mini Bus” service which has been withdrawn by HCC; and
- (c) That the Council’s policy for seeking contributions towards transport related projects be revised as soon as is practical.

94. NEGOTIATED CONTRACTS FOR HOUSING PLANNED MAINTENANCE WORKS (REPORT G).

The Cabinet considered a report seeking approval for negotiating two planned maintenance contracts for the 2001/2002 programme of work rather than commissioning the work through the usual process of tendering.

Mr Birks, Tenant Representative, commented that the tenants still had some reservations over the proposed monitoring of the contracts. The Housing Portfolio Holder responded that he would ensure that the Tenants’ Group was fully consulted on the proposed contract monitoring arrangements.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That negotiations take place with Premier Roofing with the intention of agreeing a contract price for roofing works contained in the approved 2001/2002 planned maintenance programme;

- (b) That negotiations take place with Paramount Windows with the intention of agreeing a contract price for replacement external door works contained in the approved 2001/2002 planned maintenance programme;
- (c) That the outcome of all negotiations be approved by the Council's Internal Audit Section prior to the entering of any formal contracts on behalf of the Council;
- (d) That the performance of the contractors be closely monitored to ensure continued quality and value from the work;
- (e) That it be noted that the Director of Community Services would make an exception to Standing Orders (3.1.2) to allow the contracts to be negotiated;
- (f) That the Tenants' Group be fully consulted on proposed contract monitoring arrangements.

95. LOCAL GOVERNMENT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME (LGIP) – FOLLOW UP VISIT (REPORT H).

Members noted the follow-up report following the Council's participation in the Local Government Improvement Programme.

RESOLVED:

That the report of the follow up visit be noted.

96. AIR QUALITY ASSESSMENT IN THE NEW FOREST – STAGE 2 AND 3 REVIEW (REPORT I).

The Cabinet noted the work that had been undertaken on Stages 2 and 3 of the Air Quality Assessment.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That, as the Air Quality Standards are likely to be met within the New Forest District Area, the New Forest District Council does not declare an Air Quality Management Area;
- (b) That the monitoring and reviewing of air quality in the New Forest District Council area should continue particularly for sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and particulates to ensure levels are maintained below the National Air Quality Standards; and

- (c) That the National Air Quality Standards should be applied to any new developments that may be affected by, or affect air quality.

97. TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT (CO-ORDINATION) REVIEW (REPORT J).

The Cabinet reviewed the operation of the Town Centre Management initiative in Ringwood and Hythe which was originally established to run for a period of 3 years from January 1999.

Taking into account the views of the Economy and Planning Review Panel the Cabinet agreed that a further report should be made back to them within six months.

RECOMMENDED:

That in the light of the views of the Economy and Planning Review Panel:

- (i) ***The current town centre management initiative be terminated at the end of the current calendar year; and***
- (ii) ***That further consideration be given to the options as to how this function might be delivered, especially in relation to the developing Community Plan and the relationship with local business, and that a further report prepared for members' consideration within 6 months.***

98. APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That Councillor Tipp be appointed to serve on the Hyde Housing Association (Hampshire Regional Committee); and
- (b) That Councillor Cleary be appointed to serve on Dorcas – New Forest

99. COMMONERS DWELLINGS IN THE NEW FOREST (REPORT K).

Cllr N L T Smith declared an interest as a member of the Commoners' Defence Association. He spoke on the item but took no part in the decision making.

The Cabinet considered a proposal that the District Council take over the management of the 'Commoners' Dwelling Scheme'.

Members agreed that it was important to support commoning in the New Forest and that training sessions for members of Planning Development Control Committee should, in future, include this specific aspect of the Local Plan 'Exceptions' Policy.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Council is prepared to enter into management agreements where new commoners' dwellings are proposed which comply with the terms of Policy NF-H8 of the adopted New Forest District Local Plan and its First Alteration (July 2001).

CHAIRMAN

(DEMOCRAT/CB031001/MINUTES.DOC)