

15 APRIL 2002

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Monday, 15 April 2002.

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

Councillors:

e P C Greenfield
p Mrs M D Holding
p B Rickman

Councillors:

p T M Russell
p C A Wise
P J D Heron

In Attendance:

Councillors:

K F Ault
M H G Fidler
Mrs L C Ford
F R Harrison

Councillors:

Mrs M Humber
Mrs B M Maynard
B M F Pemberton
Mrs P A Wyeth

Officers Attending:

D Yates, Ms E Malcolm, G Ashworth, Ms J Bateman, C Elliott, Mrs L Evans, Ms J Norman and Miss G O'Rourke.

204. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

The following declarations of interest were made by members in connection with Minute 206.

Cllr Russell declared interests as a director and shareholder of St George's Hospital Limited and as a Board Member, Shareholder (£1 only) and Treasurer of the New Forest Villages Housing Association Limited.

Cllr Kendal declared a personal interest as a Trustee of the Milford-on-Sea Millennium Hall Charity.

205. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

No issues were raised during the public participation period.

206. REVISED DEPOSIT STAGE OF THE LOCAL PLAN ALTERATIONS (REPORT A).

Cllr Russell declared interests as a director and shareholder of St George's Hospital Limited and as a Board Member, Shareholder (£1 only) and Treasurer of the New Forest Villages Housing Association Limited.

Cllr Kendal declared a personal interest as a Trustee of the Milford-on-Sea Millennium Hall Charity.

The Cabinet considered the revised deposit stage of the Local Plan alterations.

The Economy and Planning Portfolio Holder commented that the last review had taken place over 2 years ago and since that time the whole nature of the Council's decision making process had changed.

He said that in order for the Council to truly protect the heritage of the New Forest much more work needed to be done on the Local Plan. In particular three specific areas needed to be considered further.

Firstly the Local Plan should enable the provision of sufficient affordable housing. The Portfolio Holder was aware that many housing associations were frustrated at seeing some of their schemes apparently blocked by the Council's policies. Secondly, in relation to employment opportunities, current policies were seen as unhelpful. Thirdly, there was a lack of affordable care for the elderly within the district and the Portfolio Holder reported that health authorities wished the Council to reconsider this aspect of their policies.

There needed to be further consultation with all the Council's stakeholders particularly in the light of the forthcoming National Park designation and the need to plan strategically for the future.

The Economy and Planning Portfolio holder proposed that the Revised Deposit Stage of the Local Plan alterations should be rejected in their present form and further consideration given to key elements that needed to be addressed.

The proposal was seconded and supported generally by the Cabinet.

The Chairman was of the view that the process should pause for a short period of approximately 6 months. A number of members felt that they had not been fully engaged in the process and this period of time would enable them all to have a direct input. The Chairman also said that following a recent meeting with the Executive of the New Forest Association of Local Councils it was also clearly their view that more consultation was needed before proceeding to the next stage. It was not however, intended to introduce a significant delay and revisit every detail of the Local Plan.

It was agreed that the Planning Development Control Committee and the Economy and Planning Review Panel would be fully involved in the further considerations.

RESOLVED:

That consideration of the revised deposit stage of the Local Plan alterations be deferred for a period of approximately six months to enable further consultation with all stakeholders to take place, particularly in relation to affordable housing, employment opportunities and provision of affordable care homes for the elderly.

CHAIRMAN

(DEMOCRAT/CB150402/MINUTES.DOC)