

5 JUNE 2002

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Wednesday, 5 June 2002.

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

Councillors:

p P C Greenfield
p J D Heron
p Mrs M D Holding

Councillors:

p B Rickman
p T M Russell
p C A Wise

In Attendance:

Councillors:

K F Ault
B D Dash
F R Harrison
Mrs M J Robinson

Councillors:

D N Scott
D B Tipp
P R Woods

Also in Attendance:

Mrs P White, Tenant Representative

Mr D Bramley, Mr T Gibbon and Mr J Warren, Employee Side Representatives (for Minute No. 7)

Mrs M Smith, Head of Personnel and Contract Services, Test Valley Borough Council (for Minute No. 7)

Officers Attending:

D Yates, N Gibbs, Ms E Malcolm, C Malyon, Ms J Bateman, Miss G O'Rourke and for part of the meeting Ms D Dabrowska, Mrs P Higgins, J Mascall and R Sired.

2. MINUTES.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meetings held on 1 May 2002 and 13 May 2002, having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as correct records.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

The following members declared interests in the under-mentioned items:-

Cllr Rickman – Minute 10

Cllr Kendal – Minute 11

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

No issues were raised during the public participation period.

5. PROJECT INTEGRA – DRAFT ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN (REPORT A).

The Cabinet considered the draft Annual Business Plan for Project Integra. The Environment Portfolio Holder outlined the history of Project Integra to date and the current arrangements being carried out. He expressed some concern at the lack of information in the Plan on the future financial implications for the Council of meeting re-cycling targets. The Cabinet agreed that further information on this aspect should be requested for consideration at a future date.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the adoption of the Project Integra Annual Business Plan be agreed; and
- (b) That further information in relation to the financial implications of meeting re-cycling targets be requested for the future.

6. HIGHWAYS AGENCY REVIEW UPDATE (REPORT B).

The Cabinet considered the outcome of a review conducted by the County Council into their Highways agency arrangements. The Chairman commented that whilst the new arrangements were not ideal, they were the best solution given the circumstances. There needed to be a greater understanding from the County as to what New Forest District could offer and better consultation on their part generally on any future partnership working. The Cabinet welcomed and endorsed the comments made by the Economy and Planning Review Panel.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the County Council's decision to implement their proposals be noted;
- (b) That the cost of the changes be noted and a bid be made in the expenditure plan process later this year; and

- (c) That a letter be sent to the County Council expressing the views of the Economy & Planning Review Panel as set out in Report B to the Cabinet.

7. PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL – TEST VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL AND NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL (REPORT C).

The Cabinet considered a comprehensive business case for proceeding with the new joint venture of partnership working between the Direct Service Organisations of Test Valley Borough Council and New Forest District Council. The Cabinet noted that this joint venture in terms of partnership proposals was of national importance and had not been undertaken elsewhere in the country. The proposals represented a measured approach to minimise risk whilst offering the prospect of more cost effective services locally to the residents of New Forest and Test Valley.

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) *That the Business Case, Business Plan and Organisational Structure as set out in Report C be approved and the proposal for the joint venture between Test Valley Borough Council and New Forest District Council be supported;*
- (b) *That it be noted that the Cabinet has agreed to set up a Joint Committee with the Executive of Test Valley Borough Council with effect from 1st September 2002 under Section 101 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Authorities (Discharge of Function) Regulations 2000;*
- (c) *That so far as it is empowered to do so by law the Council approve the Constitution (including Financial Regulations) and Commercial Agreement set out respectively in Appendices 11 and 12 of Report C;*
- (d) *That three non executive members from New Forest District Council be appointed to sit on the proposed Scrutiny Committee;*
- (e) *That the Council delegate such of its functions as are set out in Appendix 13 of Report C to the Cabinet to the officers named therein; and*
- (f) *That the additional funding of up to £63,500 from Test Valley Borough Council in their 2002/03 budget, to finance the revised management structure as set out in Appendix 9 of Report C to the Cabinet be noted.*

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Business Case, Business Plan and Organisational Structure as set out in Report C be approved and the proposal for the joint venture between Test Valley Borough Council and New Forest District Council be supported;

- (b) That approval be given to the setting up of a Joint Committee with effect from 1 September 2002 under Section 101 (5) Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Authorities (Discharge of Function) Regulations 2000 with the Executive of Test Valley Borough Council to discharge executive functions relating to the operation of the Commercial Services/Contract Services Divisions of both Councils;
- (c) That so far as it is empowered to do so by law the Cabinet approve the Constitution (including Financial Regulations) and Commercial Agreement set out respectively in Appendix 11 and Appendix 12 of Report C;
- (d) That the appointment of three Executive members from the Executive of New Forest District Council to sit on the Joint Committee be deferred for consideration at a later meeting; and
- (e) That the additional funding of up to £63,500 from Test Valley Borough Council in their 2002/03 budget, to finance the revised management structure as set out in Appendix 9 of Report C be noted.

8. BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN 2002/03 (REPORT D).

The Cabinet considered the Council's Best Value Performance Plan for 2002/2003. It was noted that whilst the text was almost complete there would be some additional information incorporated before the Council meeting including the actual performance figures for 2001/2002.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Council's Best Value Performance Plan for 2002/03 be approved subject to the agreement of the individual portfolio sections by the relevant Portfolio Holders.

9. LAND AT 31 AND REAR OF 29 WATER LANE, AND ADJACENT 68 SUNNY WAY, TOTTON (REPORT E).

The Cabinet considered a report in respect of a purchase notice served by the owners of the land at 31 and rear of 29 Water Lane and adjacent to 68 Sunny Way, Totton.

RESOLVED:

That the purchase notice served by the landowners of the land in respect of the land at 31 and rear of 29 Water Lane, and adjacent 68 Sunny Way, Totton, be rejected for the reasons set out in report E and the Statement of Refusal Reasons attached as an appendix to that report.

10. SWAY YOUTH CENTRE : GRANT AID SUPPORT (REPORT F).

Councillor Rickman declared an interest in this item as a local member, Portfolio Holder and secretary of Sway Youth Centre. He considered his interest to be prejudicial and he left the meeting and took no part in consideration of this item.

The Cabinet considered an application from Sway Youth Centre for a grant towards the refurbishment of the centre.

RESOLVED:

That an award of £4,000 from the grant aid fund be made towards the renovation of Sway Youth Centre.

11. MARCHWOOD : PROVISION OF SKATEBOARD FACILITY (REPORT G).

Cllr Kendal declared an interest as a County Council member. As he did not consider his interest to be prejudicial he remained at the meeting and took part in the consideration of this item and voted.

The Cabinet considered an application from Marchwood Parish Council for the funding of a skatepark using developers' contributions.

RESOLVED:

That the sum of £48,000 be allocated from developers' contributions to enable the construction of a skatepark facility at Cork Field, Marchwood, with the funds being released on the letting of the scheme.

12. DISABLED FACILITIES GRANT BUDGET AND GRANT POLICY (REPORT H).

The Cabinet considered an offer of partnership funding of £20,000 from Hampshire County Council (HCC) Social Services for Disabled Facilities Grants and the need to subsequently vary the current grant policy to enable the money to be spent.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That funding of £20,000 from HCC Social Services be accepted; and
- (b) That the Disabled Facilities Grant policy be varied to allow up to £50,000 to be spent or committed for discretionary works during the financial year.

13. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That Councillor Mrs Ford be appointed to the New Forest Dial-a-Ride Committee in place of Cllr Mrs Holding;
- (b) That Cllr Bright be appointed to the Local Government Association Urban Commission in place of Cllr Spikins; and
- (c) That the Health and Social Exclusion Portfolio Holder and the Chairman of the General Purposes and Licensing Committee be appointed as substitute representatives to the South East Employers.

14. ADDITIONAL CABINET MEETING.

RESOLVED:

That an additional meeting of the Cabinet be held on Monday 17 June at 4:30 p.m. to consider an urgent report on the Local Information Office and Affordable Housing at Stannington Car Park, Ashley Road/Spencer Road, New Milton.

15. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS.

RESOLVED:

That, under Section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and the Press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.

16. PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL – TEST VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL AND NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL (REPORT I).

The Cabinet considered the detail of the proposed revised management structure for the Partnership.

RESOLVED:

That the details of the revised management structure be noted and that detailed job descriptions and results of job evaluation determining the grades of the proposed new posts be sought as soon as possible.

CHAIRMAN