

18 NOVEMBER 2002

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Monday, 18 November 2002.

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

Councillors:

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

Councillors:

- p B Rickman
- e T M Russell
- p C A Wise

In Attendance:

Councillors:

- K F Ault
- F J Bright
- D E Cracknell
- Mrs L C Ford

Councillors:

- J M Hoy
- Mrs M J Robinson
- M H Thierry
- D B Tipp

Also In Attendance:

Jean Barras, Employee side representative.

Officers Attending:

D Yates and Mrs J Griffiths and, for part of the meeting C Malyon, Ms G O'Rourke and Ms J Bateman.

87. SENIOR MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE (REPORT A).

The Cabinet considered a report detailing proposed changes to the Senior Management Structure of the Council. The departure of two of the five Heads of Service from the Environment Services Directorate provided an opportunity to review the senior management structure. The Director of Environment Services had agreed to accept redundancy.

The Chief Executive said that it was important to respond to major trends and that the proposed new structure for the Council would enable more corporate working. He was confident that the proposals would put the Council in a strong position for the future.

A member expressed some concern at the speed at which the decision had been taken. Some concern was also expressed at the large number of assistant directors that were proposed to report to the Director of Community Services.

The Chief Executive responded that when re-structuring involved senior management it was necessary to move quickly to minimise uncertainty. The issue of workload was not unique and it was important to maintain a balance between workloads and financial constraints. He was of the opinion that this was the most appropriate time for such a re-structure to take place. Other changes arising from this re-structuring would be worked through fully with the employee side.

The Cabinet thanked the Director, Ms E Malcolm, for her contribution to New Forest District Council. Ms Malcolm had always exhibited the highest standards of professional conduct. She had successfully led a number of major projects and through her work for the Council and partner bodies such as the New Forest Committee had done much to champion the cause of sustainability and preserve the unique environment of the area. The Chairman said that her advice had always been sound and wise.

Members and Officers wished Ms Malcolm all the very best for the future.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Council approves:

- (a) ***The redundancy of the Director of Environment Services on the terms set out in Agenda Item 3 Report 'B' (Private);***
- (b) ***That the delegations of the Director of Environment Services that are not the responsibility of the Cabinet be transferred to the Directors of Community Services and Resources, as appropriate.***

RESOLVED:

- (c) That, subject to the agreement of (a) above the restructuring of the senior management of the Authority as detailed in Report A be approved; and
- (d) That subject to the agreement of (a) above the delegations that fall within the remit of the Cabinet be amended by transferring powers currently delegated to the Director of Environment Services to the Director of Community Services and Director of Resources, as appropriate.

88. 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 involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1, of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.

89. SENIOR MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE (REPORT B).

The Cabinet considered the detail of the proposal for the redundancy of the Director of Environment Services.

RECOMMENDED

That the Council approves the detailed arrangements proposed in Report B for the redundancy of the Director of Environment Services.

CHAIRMAN

(DEMOCRAT/CB181102/MINUTES.DOC)