

10 JULY 2003

**NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Thursday, 10 July 2003

p Cllr M J Kendal (Chairman)  
e Cllr T M Russell (Vice-Chairman)

**Councillors:**

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

**Councillors:**

p B Rickman  
p M H Thierry  
p C A Wise

**In Attendance:**

**Councillors:**

K F Ault  
C Baker

**Councillor:**

Mrs M J Robinson

**Also In Attendance:**

Mrs P White and Mr V Francis, Tenants' Representatives.

**Officers Attending:**

D Yates, N Gibbs, C Malyon, Ms J Bateman and J Mascall and for part of the meeting S Maggs and Ms H Renwick.

**13. MINUTES.**

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 4 June 2003, having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**14. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

Cllr Robinson declared an interest in Minute 18.

**15. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**

No issues were raised during the public participation period.

**16. PROVISIONAL FINAL ACCOUNTS 2002/2003 (REPORT A).**

The Cabinet considered the provisional outturn position on the General Fund, the Housing Revenue Account, the Capital Programme and Commercial Services. The Council's final accounts would be considered by the General Purposes and Licensing Committee in September 2003.

Members were please to note that the overall underspend for the General Fund was now less than ½ % of the gross budget. There was still a level of slippage on the Capital programme although, it was noted that approximately 1/3 of the slippage was as a result of issues relating to grant funding of coastal expenditure. The Cabinet agreed that there continued to be a need for budgets to reflect spending more accurately.

In particular, members attention was drawn to the reimbursement of £1.08m of business rates plus interest, following a successful appeal against the recreation centres rateable values, dating back to 1990. These monies would be held in reserves until allocated through the normal expenditure plan processes.

**RESOLVED:**

That the provisional outturn figures be noted.

**17. MILFORD SEAFRONT : CAPITAL SCHEME (REPORT B).**

The Cabinet considered a scheme to refurbish key elements of the seafront at Milford-on-Sea. The area had not had any significant investment for some time and work to the physical fabric of the promenade and related areas was needed.

In relation to the Project Board the Cabinet agreed that, in addition to the proposed representatives, a local district councillor should also be appointed.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the need for a scheme to renovate the promenade at Milford be supported;
- (b) That a project management system be established within the PRINCE structure with representation as outlined in report B to the Cabinet, subject to the addition of a local member being appointed to the Project Board; and
- (c) That as part of the budget process, a more detailed report be presented on the scheme, complete with a funding plan.

**18. PARKING FOR DISABLED PEOPLE IN COUNCIL CAR PARKS (REPORT C).**

The Cabinet noted the duty on the Council arising from the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995 in respect of the Council's car parks and considered ways of how this could be achieved.

Mrs White, tenant representative expressed concern that, tenants had already faced a reduction in the budget for Environmental Improvements for 2003/2004 and now the works proposed under the DDA would take priority over other improvements. She said that some of areas where it was proposed to provide car parking for disabled people were inappropriate. The Cabinet agreed that the tenants' representatives should be consulted further on the detail of the proposals in housing areas.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That, subject to further consultation with tenants' representatives on the detail of the work, a four year programme of improvements to parking for the disabled be approved;
- (b) That a supplementary estimate of £20,000.00 (£15,000.00 General Fund and £5,000.00 Housing Revenue Account) for 2003/04 and £20,000.00 (£15,000.00 General Fund and £5,000.00 Housing Revenue Account) be included in the Expenditure Plan for the Next 3 years (04/05 – 06/07); and
- (c) That the issue of eligibility for parking in disabled bays be considered as part of the Traffic Management Scheme Review.

**19. LIME KILN LANE, HOLBURY – 7 AFFORDABLE DWELLINGS BY WESTERN CHALLENGE HOUSING ASSOCIATION (REPORT D).**

Cllr Robinson declared a personal interest as a Board member of Medina Housing Association. She did not consider her interest to be prejudicial and remained at the meeting and took part in the discussion. She did not have a vote.

The Cabinet noted the detail of urgent action taken by the Director of Resources in accordance with Financial Regulation 2.4 to enable a scheme to provide 7 affordable dwellings at Lime Kiln Lane, Holbury to proceed.

**RESOLVED:**

That the decision of the Director of Resources, in accordance with Financial Regulation 2.4, to agree funding totalling £426,057 being allocated to Western Challenge Housing Association to support the provision of 7 affordable dwellings at Lime Kiln Lane, Holbury be noted.

**20. FAIRCROSS CLOSE, HOLBURY AND BURNT HOUSE LANE, SOPLEY – DISPOSAL OF LAND FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND THE ALLOCATION OF LOCAL AUTHORITY SOCIAL HOUSING GRANT (REPORT E).**

The Cabinet considered the disposal of land at Faircross Close to Hyde Housing Association for the development of 4 affordable homes and, the disposal of land at Burnt House Lane to Hampshire Voluntary Housing Society for the development of 3 affordable homes and the consequent allocation of Local Authority Social Housing Grant.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the land at Faircross Close be transferred to Hyde Housing Association for £8,000 for affordable housing;
- (b) That the land at Burnt House Lane be transferred to Hampshire Voluntary Housing Association at £160,000 with £107,000 recycled as LASHG to facilitate the development of the affordable housing on the site; and
- (c) That the total additional monies of £61,000 received be allocated to fund additional affordable homes elsewhere in the district.

**21. AFFORDABLE HOUSING FUNDING (REPORT F).**

The Cabinet noted the unallocated developers' contributions that had been collected and considered their use to fund affordable housing schemes through the allocation of Local Authority Social Housing Grant.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That £140,500 of developer's contributions be used to enable the provision of new affordable housing; and
- (b) That the £38,293 of spending power (available due to the final grant cost of Dreamland, Hythe) be used to enable the provision of new affordable housing.

**22. TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE (REPORT G).**

The Cabinet considered the details of the expenditure required to implement the proposals for a scheme of traffic management. A supplementary estimate was required as the timing of the decision had meant that budget provision could not be introduced for the 2003/2004 programme.

**RECOMMENDED:**

***That a supplementary estimate of £39,000, be approved in order to implement the proposals for a scheme of traffic management.***

**23. HIGHWAYS AGENCY : MANAGEMENT OF TRAFFIC REGULATION (REPORT H).**

The Cabinet had previously approved an offer from Hampshire County Council for the District Council to undertake the traffic regulation function. The Cabinet now considered the formal agency agreement required to undertake this function.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the Agency Agreement as appended to Report H to the Cabinet be approved and entered into at the earliest date; and
- (b) That the Delegations to Officers as set out in Report H to the Cabinet be approved.

**24. RINGWOOD RECREATION CENTRE LIFT (REPORT I).**

The Cabinet considered proposals that would enable the replacement of the lift at Ringwood Recreation Centre in the current financial year. Funding for the work had been identified through the expenditure plan process for 2004/2005. However, the lift had become increasingly unreliable and its replacement was now considered urgent.

**RECOMMENDED:**

***That a virement of £30,000 capital allocation be made from the Marchwood Youth Club capital provision to the budget for the Ringwood Recreation Centre Lift to enable replacement of the lift within the current financial year.***

**25. CHANGES TO THE FUNDING OF DISABLED FACILITIES GRANTS (REPORT J).**

The Cabinet considered changes to the way in which central government subsidised Disabled Facilities Grants which are carried out to private dwellings. The changes meant that the 60% subsidy funding that the Council received for works over £25,000 would be discontinued and the Council would have to fund the whole amount.

**RESOLVED:**

That the current policy of supporting mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants over the £25,000 government threshold in both the private and public sector be continued.

**26. APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODY.**

This item was withdrawn from the agenda. It was reported that the LGA were the appointing body for the Regional Environment Protection Liaison Committee and not the Council.

CHAIRMAN

(DEMOCRAT/CB100703/MINUTES.DOC)