

3 MARCH 2004

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Wednesday, 3 March 2004

p Cllr M J Kendal (Chairman)
p Cllr B Rickman (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors:

p G C Beck
e P C Greenfield
p J D Heron

Councillors:

e Mrs M D Holding
p M H Thierry
p C A Wise

In Attendance:

Councillors:

C Baker
Ms L C Ford
F R Harrison
Mrs M Humber
R J Neath
G J Parkes

Councillors:

L R Puttock
Mrs M J Robinson
N E Scott
D N Scott
B M F Pemberton
Dr M N Whitehead

Also In Attendance:

Mrs P White, Tenants' Representative.

Officers Attending:

D Yates, J Mascal, C Malyon, Ms J Bateman, D Brown and Miss G O'Rourke and for part of the meeting R Burns, Ms P Freeland, Mrs J Hawker, Mrs R Rutins and R Sired.

120. MINUTES.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2004, having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

121. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Cllr Neath declared an interest in Minute 124

Cllr Heron declared an interest in Minute 133

Cllr Kendal declared an interest in Minute 133

122. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

Mr W Catt addressed the Cabinet. Mr Catt expressed concern at the proposed extended use of Hounslow Depot, Totton. He said that the proposal was against the Council's sustainability policy. He was unhappy with the current use of the site that was in a residential area. He already received numerous complaints about noise from the vehicles and the drivers and, as there was likely to be an additional 10 heavy goods vehicles and 30 operatives on the site, this would result in further complaints. There would also be considerable additional pollution.

Mr Catt handed a letter, detailing his concerns to the Director of Commercial Services.

The Chairman responded and confirmed that Mr Catt would receive a full and detailed response to his letter. He said that the Director of Commercial Services had applied for an operators licence on behalf of Test Valley Borough Council for Hounslow depot.

The application was now with the Traffic Commissioner for a decision. If the application was approved a report would be made to Cabinet for consideration. An environmental impact study would also be undertaken at that stage. The Chairman said that, for officers to have made the application in the first place meant that they thought that there would be operational advantages. However, all the issues would be taken into account and considered by the Cabinet in due course.

123. PROJECT INTEGRA ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN 2004/05 (REPORT A).

The Cabinet considered the Project Integra annual Business Plan. Project Integra was a partnership that sought to achieve an integrated approach to waste management in Hampshire. In response to a question the Environment Portfolio Holder confirmed that he would be pursuing further ways of achieving waste minimisation across the district.

RESOLVED:

That the Project Integra Annual Business Plan 2004/05 be endorsed.

124. DISPOSAL OF LAND AT GARAGE SITE, WARNES LANE, BURLEY (REPORT B).

Cllr Neath declared a personal interest as a Council appointed member of the New Forest Villages Housing Association. He did not consider his interest to be prejudicial and remained at the meeting and took part in the discussion. He did not have a vote.

The Cabinet received a report detailing the decision of the Director of Resources, taken as a matter of urgency, to agree to the disposal of land at Warnes Lane, Burley to New Forest Villages Housing Association (NFVHA).

RESOLVED:

That the decision of the Director of Resources made in accordance with Financial Regulation 2.4, as set out below be noted:

- (i) The land at Warnes Lane be transferred freehold to NFVHA for £40,000;
- (ii) The transfer be subject to planning consent being granted to NFVHA to develop the site for affordable housing and subject to an overage clause claiming back an uplift in value should planning restrictions for the site be lifted in the future; and
- (iii) The £40,000 capital receipt received be recycled to fund affordable homes.

125. CRANBORNE CHASE AND WEST WILTSHIRE DOWNS AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY MANAGEMENT PLAN (REPORT C).

The Cabinet considered the Management Plan for the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

RESOLVED:

That the Management Plan for the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty be adopted.

126. CHURCHILL COURT, GORE ROAD, NEW MILTON (REPORT D).

The Cabinet considered options for the future of Churchill Court. Churchill Court was classed as a hard to let property and required extensive work to bring it to the standard of other accommodation within the area. The lifestyle expectations of older people now meant that they rightly expected accommodation with their own facilities.

Mrs White, the Tenants' representative said that older people were living longer, remained healthier longer and were now requiring sheltered accommodation at a much later stage. As a result there was a lower demand for such accommodation. However, sufficient accommodation of an appropriate size and standard still needed to be available. In view of the good local facilities, Mrs White said that this site should be kept for use by the elderly. There were other sites in New Milton that could be used for affordable housing.

The Chairman said that he knew that the welfare of the tenants was uppermost in the Housing Portfolio Holder's mind. The Housing Portfolio Holder would want full consultation to be undertaken before any decision was made. Members noted that the residents in Churchill Court particularly wished to stay in that geographical location close to services and amenities.

Cllr Mrs Robinson agreed that this particular accommodation did need updating to give the residents better living conditions. However, she did not agree that there was over provision of sheltered accommodation for the elderly. Many private developers were continuing to build accommodation specifically for older people, which indicated there was still a demand.

In response to the points raised in discussion, officers confirmed that whilst potential sites for housing were continually being monitored, officers would again look at all possible sites in New Milton to ensure that no opportunities were missed. Although private sheltered accommodation continued to be built there was clearly less demand for Council owned sheltered accommodation.

After discussion members agreed that they wished to consider options 2 and 4 in greater detail. In particular members asked that option 4 should include the opportunity for single occupancy flats for the existing tenants. Whilst full consultation on the proposals was important, this had to be balanced against the need to expedite the matter to ensure that there was no unnecessary delay for the residents.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the report be noted;
- (b) That further details of options 2 and 4 together with residents' views be brought back to a future meeting for a decision to be taken on the preferred option; and
- (c) That the detail for option 4 should include the opportunity for single occupancy flats for the existing tenants.

127. FORMER ROYAL NAVY ARMAMENTS DEPOT MARCHWOOD – COMPLETION OF FLOOD DEFENCES AND PUBLIC FOOTPATH (REPORT E).

The Cabinet considered a report detailing the completion of the flood defences and the public footpath network around the former Royal Navy Armaments Depot at Marchwood.

The Cabinet noted that Marchwood Parish Council had written in support of the proposals in principle.

RESOLVED:

That the scheme design be approved, the leasing of the land be agreed with the parties involved and the scheme be implemented using developers' contributions.

128. MILFORD SEAFRONT : DETAILED SCHEME (REPORT F).

The Cabinet considered a detailed scheme to renovate the promenade at Milford seafront. Members noted that the Parish Council owned some of the land involved and that the scheme was proceeding in partnership with them.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the scheme for the renovation of Milford Seafront be approved;
- (b) That the project management arrangements remain in place for the duration of the project and are used on an 'as required' basis;
- (c) That the Parish Council be approached to lease the site of the Play Area;
and
- (d) That a copy of the plans be made available for display purposes locally.

129. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY REPORT 2004/05 (REPORT G).

The Cabinet considered the detail of a Treasury Management Strategy. The Strategy would cover the operation of the Council's treasury function for the forthcoming years and the impact of the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities.

The Prudential Code required the Council to agree and monitor a minimum number of prudential indicators. The Finance and Support Portfolio Holder said that, with the Council intending to become debt free, he would like to give further consideration to developing the focus on improving the Council's position within those indicators.

Members agreed that the Strategy and the Prudential Code were complicated areas of expertise and that they would benefit from specific training in these matters.

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) ***That the prudential indicators and limits within the report be adopted;
and***
- (b) ***That the Treasury Management Strategy 2004/05 be approved.***

RESOLVED:

- (c) That officers arrange appropriate training for members on the impact of the Prudential Code.

130. THE FUNDING OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROVIDED THROUGH THE PLANNING PROCESS (REPORT H).

The Cabinet considered the implications of a number of recent changes to the funding of affordable housing, and to regional housing priorities, and the impact on the delivery of affordable housing in the District in the future.

Members agreed that the Economy and Planning Review Panel should monitor the impact of these changes on the supply of affordable housing in the district, and on the subsequent availability of developers' contributions for other purposes.

RESOLVED:

That on planning applications received by the Council from this date, requiring an element of affordable housing provision in accordance with the Council's development plan policies, negotiations be on the basis that the landowner(s)/developer(s) makes land available for affordable housing provision to a Registered Social Landlord at nil-value.

131. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2003/04 AND KEY TARGETS 2004/05 (REPORT I).

The Cabinet considered the key targets identified for the year ahead and the achievements against targets for the previous year.

Members noted that the targets were an important part of the Council's Performance Management framework. The targets were based on the most important elements of the Service Plans which, when allocated to portfolios, formed a plan for the Council for the way ahead.

Members agreed that there was still a need to develop the targets further to ensure that they reflected what the Council wanted for the year ahead. It was agreed that all members would be consulted on the revised targets before they were considered again by the Cabinet. The targets would form part of the Performance Plan to be agreed by the Council and published in June 2004.

The Finance and Support Portfolio Holder suggested that it might be helpful to group the targets under specific categories within each portfolio. Officers would look at this option.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the assessment made of performance against the 2003/04 key targets as set out in Appendix 1 to Report I be noted; and
- (b) That the Cabinet continue to develop the key targets for 2004/05, as set out in Appendix 2 to Report I, to improve their definition.

132. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That Cllr Austin be appointed to the Crime and Community Action Group in place of Cllr Ault;
- (b) That Cllr Puttock be appointed to the Local Government Association Rural Commission in place of Cllr Ault;
- (c) That Cllr Tinsley be appointed to the Solent Sea Rescue in place of Cllr Ault; and
- (d) That Cllr Tinsley be appointed to the Southampton Port Consultative Committee in place of Cllr Ault.

133. HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – FUTURE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS (REPORT J).

Cllr Heron declared a personal interest in this item in that his mother was a County Councillor. He did not consider his interest to be prejudicial. He remained at the meeting, took part in the discussion and voted.

Cllr Kendal declared a personal and prejudicial interest as a County Councillor who had taken an active part in formulating proposals. He left the meeting during consideration of this item.

The Vice-Chairman, Cllr Rickman in the Chair.

The Cabinet considered draft recommendations from the Boundary Committee for England on the periodic electoral review (PER) of electoral arrangements for Hampshire. The broad objectives of PERs were to achieve, as far as possible, equal representation across the local authority as a whole.

Members noted some concern expressed over the proposals for the Fordingbridge, Dibden & Hythe and Fawley Divisions. Representations received from the Copythorne and Whitsbury Parish Councils were considered. In Fordingbridge, it was suggested that the addition of Bramshaw Parish and part of Copythorne would make that Division too large. The current twelve parishes already provided a heavy workload. With regard to the proposals for Fawley, the view was expressed that placing the Furzedown and Hardly ward into the Fawley Division would be inappropriate, and would exacerbate the existing unsatisfactory arrangement of cross boundary representation in that area. A scheme that would enable Hythe &

Dibden to remain as one Division was favoured or, alternatively, one that would link the north of the parish with areas to the north, would be preferable.

In considering these proposals and the comments made by members the Cabinet were mindful of the importance of maintaining existing communities and community boundaries. They agreed that the Boundary Committee should be advised of the Council's concerns over this particular aspect of the proposals.

RESOLVED:

That the Boundary Committee's draft recommendations for the revised County electoral arrangements, insofar as they relate to New Forest District, be supported subject to specific concerns at the proposals for Fordingbridge, Dibden & Hythe and Fawley divisions in that they do not take account of the need to maintain communities and community boundaries.

134. 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 were 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 8 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.

135. MILFORD SEAFRONT : DETAILED SCHEME (REPORT K).

The Cabinet considered confidential information relating to the financial arrangements for the refurbishment scheme for Milford Seafront.

RESOLVED:

That the financial detail of the scheme for the refurbishment of Milford Seafront be noted.

CHAIRMAN