

**2 JUNE 2004**

**NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Wednesday, 2 June 2004.

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

**Councillors:**

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

**Councillors:**

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

**In Attendance:**

**Councillors:**

- p C Baker
- p F R Harrison
- p Mrs M Humber
- p R J Neath
- p G J Parkes

**Councillors:**

- p B M F Pemberton
- p Mrs M J Robinson
- p D N Scott
- p Mrs S I Snowden
- p J G Ward

**Also In Attendance:**

Mrs P White, Tenants' Representative.

**Officers Attending:**

D Yates, N Gibbs, J Mascall, C Malyon, Ms J Bateman and Miss G O'Rourke and for part of the meeting, C Elliott, A Groom, M Poole and K Smith.

**3. MINUTES.**

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 April 2004, having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to the substitution of the following wording to line 4 of Minute 147 – Appointment to New Forest Transportation Panel:-

'..... consultation, Councillor Shand had agreed to stand down during his year as Chairman of the Council and Cllr Heron, as .....

**4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

Cllrs F R Harrison, Mrs Humber and Kendal declared interests in Minute No. 16.

**5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**

No issues were raised during the public participation period.

**6. SURVEILLANCE POLICY (REVISION MAY 2004) – REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000 (REPORT A).**

The Cabinet considered the revision of the Council's existing Surveillance Policy following advice from the Office of Surveillance Commissioners and, in the light of recent changes in legislation.

The Cabinet noted a revised Appendix 1 to Appendix B that was circulated at the meeting updating the functions to be undertaken by the authorised officers.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the Council's revised Surveillance Policy under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000, as detailed in report A to the Cabinet, be approved; and
- (b) That the functions as detailed in Appendix 1 to Appendix B as amended and circulated at the meeting be formally delegated to the officers as shown.

**7. ICT SECURITY POLICY FOR EMPLOYEES (REPORT B).**

The Cabinet considered a revised ICT Security Policy for employees. The revisions would simplify and clarify the policy and, whilst maintaining the security of the Council's ICT infrastructure, would still enable employees to use the Internet in a measured and balanced way.

**RESOLVED:**

That the revised ICT Security Policy for Employees as appended to Report B to the Cabinet be approved.

**8. COASTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW (REPORT C).**

The Cabinet considered a revised Coastal Management Plan (CMP) and updated action plan. Members noted that the Council were a lead agency in coastal monitoring and this area of work now made a major contribution to the Council's finances. The CMP provided a wide range of information, policies and strategies relating to all activities on the Council's coastline and was an extremely important tool in delivering integrated and cost effective management of coastal issues.

In response to a question relating to the potential flood risk in Hythe Village, members noted that whilst the Environment Agency only rated the area as being at low risk this still had an impact on development potential. The Environment Agency had said that they had no plans to change the rating in the near future but would consider the issue further when they reviewed the Shoreline Management Plan in 2005. In the meantime the Chairman said that he would raise the issue at the Local Flood Defence Committee.

**RECOMMENDED:**

***That the revised Coastal Management Plan document be approved, subject to officers updating references to Dibden Bay in the light of the recent Inquiry decision.***

**9. HYTHE CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL (REPORT D).**

The Cabinet considered the results of a consultation exercise in respect of Hythe Conservation Area appraisal and, subject to the additional wording detailed below, supported the proposed amendments.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the Hythe Conservation Area Appraisal, as attached at Appendix 2 to report D to the Cabinet, be approved and adopted as supplementary planning guidance to the New Forest District Local Plan subject to the following additional wording:

**"To add the following to the text in 4.8.1 (Character and Relationship of Spaces within Area - Analysis and Assessment):-**

'Works are imminent which will create a more attractive and invigorating space at the water's edge. It is a shared desire, and a commitment on the part of the authorities carrying out the works to the Promenade, to connect the Promenade at a later date to the area at the Pier Head.

This would greatly increase the attractiveness of the waterfront for pedestrians and make the Promenade part of a circuit of routes rather than in part a cul-de-sac as at present. The conservation area itself would benefit from such an enhancement of the network of pedestrian routes.'

To add the following to the bold case text in 4.8.2 (**Character and Relationship of Spaces within Area - Implications for Development**):-

- **5 Developments to the rear of the east side of the High Street near the Pier Head and the northern end of the Promenade should have regard to the commitment that exists to connect the Promenade to the area at the Pier Head for pedestrians, and should not jeopardise the ability for this to take place.'**
- (b) That the response of the District Council to the representations received during the public consultation exercise be as detailed in Appendix 1 to report D to the Cabinet.

#### 10. **KEY TARGETS 2004/2005 (REPORT E).**

The Cabinet agreed to recommend to the Council the Portfolio Key Targets for 2004/2005 as detailed in Report E to the Cabinet subject to the amendments detailed below. The targets were selected on the basis of their significant impact either on the community or the Council. They sought to provide major contributions across the whole of the Corporate Plan.

The targets would now be incorporated into the Performance Plan that would be considered by the Council on 14 June 2004.

#### **RECOMMENDED:**

***That the Key Targets for 2004/05 as detailed in Report E to the Cabinet be approved subject to :-***

- (i) ***Economy & Planning Portfolio – add the following new target:***

***“To provide advice, support and information to enable the Totton Town Centre Regeneration Scheme to be implemented.”***

- (ii) ***Environment – amend target 2 to read : “Achieve a 27% rate for recycling of household waste from within the existing waste stream, as an incremental process to meeting the Government target of 40%”;***

- (ii) ***Finance and Support Portfolio – add the following new target:***

***“To develop a policy for the management of the Council's cash position within the Treasury Management Strategy for 2005/06”***

**11. PERFORMANCE MATTERS : PERFORMANCE PLAN 2004/2005 (REPORT F).**

The Cabinet supported proposals to change the publication of the Council's Annual Performance Plan to include a web based approach that would focus on delivering the Corporate Plan, by outlining performance against the 26 corporate aims.

The Cabinet agreed that the Plan should be supported by a full colour document that, whilst maintaining the previous high standards of publication, would ensure that the performance and improvement plans for each individual aim could be distributed more flexibly. Members agreed that officers should continue to ensure that the plan was produced in the most appropriate and economic way.

**RECOMMENDED**

- (a) *That the Performance Plan 2004/2005, incorporating the Key Targets be agreed;***
- (b) *That the proposed changes to the publication, printing and distribution of Performance Matters outlined in paragraphs 2.1 and 8.4 of report F to the Cabinet be supported; and***
- (c) *That the continued development of the key issues highlighted in paragraph 6, in order to realise the full potential to report the delivery of the corporate plan, be supported.***

**12. CHANGING LIVES – DRAFT COMMUNITY STRATEGY (REPORT G).**

The Cabinet considered the feedback on the 'Changing Lives – Draft Community Strategy'. The Strategy had been prepared through the Changing Lives Partnership. Consultation on the Strategy took place during March and April 2004. Over 400 main documents and 3,500 summary documents were made available to organisations and all members of the Council received a copy for comment.

The responses to the document were considered by the Community Action Team (CAT) and the various Community Action Networks (CANS). Their recommendations were considered by the LSP on 13 May 2004 who in turn agreed recommendations for a number of changes to the Strategy as set out in Appendix 1 to report G to the Cabinet. The Cabinet has supported the proposed changes and the Council was asked to agree the final document.

**RECOMMENDED:**

***That, subject to the amendments listed in Appendix 1 to report G to the Cabinet, the Changing Lives Community Strategy 2004 – 2007 with its 2004/05 Action Plan be approved.***

**13. SOLENT EUROPEAN MARINE SITES (REPORT H).**

The Cabinet has noted and supported the development and implications of the proposed single scheme of management for the Solent European Marine Site.

**RESOLVED:**

That the submission to DEFRA of the Solent European Marine Sites Draft Scheme of Management be supported.

**14. PLANNING DELIVERY GRANT (REPORT I).**

The Council had been awarded £523,022 in Planning Delivery Grant allocation for 2004/2005. This was as a result of improving development control performance and successful progression of the Local Plan in 2002/2003.

The purpose of the grant was to improve planning services and, in particular, to achieve Government set development control targets and to progress work on the new Local Development Frameworks that were replacing Local Plans.

Members noted that the matter would be also be considered by the Planning Development Committee and the Economy and Planning Review Panel at a meeting on 9 June 2004. Their views would be reported to the meeting of the Council on 14 June 2004.

**RECOMMENDED:**

***That, subject to a review of the position in December 2004, the spending proposals set out in Appendix 1 to report I to the Cabinet for the allocation of the 2004-5 Planning Delivery Grant be approved.***

**15. CHURCHILL COURT, NEW MILTON (REPORT J).**

The Cabinet considered the recommendations from the special meeting of the Housing Health and Social Inclusion Review Panel that met to discuss a "Call in" of the decision made by the Cabinet on 7 April 2004 in relation to the future of Churchill Court, New Milton.

Mrs White, Tenant representative said that the residents at Churchill Court were happy that the issue had been given the consideration it deserved. She expressed some concern that when the development of the site went ahead there could be parking issues. The road was well used with the school and sports centre opposite and the condition of Gore Road would need to be addressed.

**RESOLVED:**

That the decision taken at the meeting on 7 April 2004 regarding the future of Churchill Court be re-affirmed.

**16. LAND EXCHANGE WITH HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (REPORT K).**

Cllr F R Harrison declared a personal interest as a member of Totton and Eling Town Council. He did not consider his interest to be prejudicial. He remained at the meeting and took part in the debate. He did not have a vote.

Cllr Mrs Humber declared a personal interest as a member of Lymington and Pennington Town Council. She did not consider her interest to be prejudicial. She remained at the meeting and took part in the debate. She did not have a vote.

Cllr Kendal declared a personal interest as a member of Hampshire County Council. He did not consider his interest to be prejudicial. He remained at the meeting, took part in the debate and voted.

The Cabinet considered a proposal for an exchange of land with HCC, relinquishing a shared interest of land at 8 Acre Pond, Pennington in return for acquiring the freehold interest in land at Bartley Water, Totton and Ashley Junior School, New Milton.

**RESOLVED:**

That the proposals for a transfer of the District Council's interest in land at Pennington (as shown in appendix 1 to report K to the Cabinet) in exchange for the freehold title of the County Council's land at Bartley Avenue and Ashley Junior School (as shown in appendices 2 & 3 of report K to the Cabinet) be approved.

**17. HISTORIC BUILDING GRANT SCHEME – DELEGATED POWERS (REPORT L).**

The Council had a Historic Building Grant budget of £20,000 per annum. In order to ensure the most efficient administration of the scheme the Cabinet agreed that the power to offer grants should be delegated to officers.

Members noted that the budget provided the Council with a valuable opportunity to influence decisions made by the owners of listed buildings that, in turn, could save time and resources at a later date. The Cabinet noted that local members would always be consulted before any decision was taken. In addition, they agreed, that the Economy and Planning Portfolio Holder should keep the use of the grant scheme under review.

**RESOLVED:**

That the power to offer historic building grants be delegated to the Head of Policy Design and Information.

**18. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES.**

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the Coastal Projects Manager be appointed to the Solent Forum in place of the Head of Technical Services; and
- (b) That Cllr Heron be appointed to the New Forest Tourism Association Management Committee in place of Cllr Beck.

CHAIRMAN