

**2 MARCH 2005**

**NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Wednesday, 2 March 2005

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:**

Ms L C Ford  
R C H Hale  
Mrs M A Humber  
R J Neath  
Sqn Ldr B M F Pemberton

**Councillors:**

L R Puttock  
D N Scott  
Mrs S I Snowden  
P R Woods

**Also In Attendance:**

Mrs P White and Mrs A Murphy, Tenants' Representatives.

**Officers Attending:**

D Yates, C Malyon, J Mascall, Ms J Bateman and Miss G O'Rourke and, for part of the meeting, Ms S Gardner, N Gibbs and C Read.

**122. MINUTES.**

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2005, having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**123. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

No declarations of interest were made by members in connection with any agenda item.

**124. REVIEW OF HOUSING OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY POST (REPORT A).**

The Cabinet noted the success of the two-year pilot Housing Occupational Therapist post and considered the future arrangements. The post was currently funded jointly by HCC Social Services and NFDC on a 50/50 basis.

The Tenants' Representatives reported that the tenants were in full agreement with the proposal.

**RESOLVED:**

That continued provision of £20,000 be made in the Housing Revenue Account to fund the establishment of a post of Housing Occupational Therapist.

**125. THREE YEAR REVENUE AND CAPITAL SETTLEMENTS (REPORT B).**

The Cabinet considered a response to a consultation paper recently published by the ODPM that made a number of proposals for the introduction of longer term revenue and capital funding mechanisms.

The Cabinet noted that the Government were intending to introduce the proposals from the 2006/2007 financial year. It was felt that there were a number of issues that would make this difficult. Under the new arrangements there would be a requirement to set the Council Tax levels for 3 years. Whilst this could provide a degree of certainty to tax payers, issues such as changes in Government legislation or interest rates would need to be accommodated. It would also be unreasonable not to expect budgets to be reviewed following a change of administration during the three year period. Therefore, whilst the principle of a longer term policy for funding was supported there were still some outstanding concerns.

Members discussed the draft response to the consultation paper in detail. It was noted that if a 3 year budget were set with a fixed Council Tax, a reserve figure might need to be built in to accommodate any changes that might occur within the life of that budget. This would artificially inflate the amount of Council Tax payable. The Government would need to give an assurance of their core funding settlement to councils and allow flexibility to review and amend budgets within the 3 year process, to take account of any new responsibilities imposed on councils.

The Finance and Support Portfolio Holder firmly supported the need for longer term planning. The Council currently took a 3 year view of its budgets but could only concentrate on the first year due to the uncertainty of Government issues. He said that he would support a 3 year rolling programme whereby the first year was fixed but the second and third years were flexible and revised as they rolled forward. This would encourage councils to plan, not for a period of three specific years but as an ongoing business.

The Finance and Support Portfolio Holder also suggested that the opportunity should be taken to grant greater freedom to 'excellent councils' to allocate their funding as they chose in line with local needs.

In response to a question it was noted that whilst the Council had, in cash terms, received an increase in Government grant in real terms there had been a 'reduction' as the funding was insufficient to cover increased costs.

**RESOLVED:**

That the principle of three year revenue and capital settlements be approved subject to the comments contained in the Council's response to the Governments consultation paper, as contained within the Appendix to Report B and the Portfolio Holder's comments as circulated at the meeting.

**126. REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED CONCERNING THE ADVERTISED DRAFT DISTRICT OF NEW FOREST (OFF-STREET PARKING PLACES) (AMENDMENT NO. 2) ORDER 2005 (REPORT C).**

The Cabinet considered representations made in relation to the advertised draft order. In particular they noted that no objections had been received from any of the statutory consultees.

**RESOLVED:**

That the draft District of New Forest (Off-Street Parking Places) (Amendment No 2) Order 2005 to introduce charges on Sundays to all existing charged Town and Village Car Parks be approved.

**127. PROJECT INTEGRA BUSINESS PLAN 2005-2010 (REPORT D).**

The Cabinet considered the Project Integra Business Plan for 2005 – 2010.

The Environment Portfolio Holder supported the business plan and said that NFDC compared well with other local authorities in Hampshire. He commended the work of the Director and Assistant Director of Commercial Services for their efforts in making sure that, in terms of waste management, NFDC was one of the best performing authorities.

Members noted some minor arithmetical errors in the business plan that would be corrected by Project Integra in the final document.

In order to increase the percentage of waste recycled even further, members agreed that customers needed to be encouraged to participate more in the Council's recycling schemes. Now that the 'clear sack' recycling scheme had been rolled out across the whole district, officers were focussing on areas of the district where there were low participation rates, to encourage more recycling. The clear sacks enabled refuse operatives to check the contents at the point of collection and thereby reject any that were contaminated.

The Environment Portfolio Holder said that unlike most other authorities in Hampshire, NFDC still provided a weekly collection of residual and recyclable refuse. The Council was now starting to roll out a new scheme to collect green garden waste. Unlike other authorities this scheme would be self-financing and would not be a burden on Council Tax payers without gardens.

In considering the detail of the business plan members noted the relationship between recycling costs and the percentage of waste recycled, in particular they expressed concern at the potentially disproportionate increase in cost associated with increasing the District's existing high recycling rate. Members agreed to the funding outlined in the Project Integra Business Plan for support for the Project Integra's Executive Officer and the funding for projects.

Members expressed concern at the high levels of rejected material at the MRF and fully supported the need for Project Integra and HCC to address this with Hampshire Waste Services/Onyx as a priority. They were pleased to note that a meeting had already taken place to start to address this issue.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Project Integra Annual Business Plan be endorsed, subject to the Environment Portfolio Holder being satisfied that the following conditions are met:

- (i) That the Annual Business Plan take a more proactive and long term view of the provision of waste infrastructure in Hampshire;
- (ii) That the Annual Business Plan include a strategy for dealing with the levels of rejected material at the MRF. It is the view of this Council that the level of rejection at the MRF is unacceptable and that Project Integra and the County Council be requested to address this with Onyx as a matter of priority; and
- (iii) That new legislation such as the Waste, Electronic and Electrical directive and the Bio Waste directive need to be clearly identified in the Annual Business Plan together with the implication of how those are going to be managed.

**128. ADVERTISING ON PAY AND DISPLAY PARKING TICKETS (REPORT E).**

The Cabinet considered a proposal to introduce advertising on the rear of pay and display parking tickets.

In response to a question, the Portfolio Holder said that all applications for advertising would need to be carefully considered to ensure that they were appropriate but, on balance, he was of the view that this was a good opportunity to raise income.

In terms of car parks generally members agreed that direction/information maps in car parks would be useful and asked that officers progress this matter.

**RESOLVED:**

That, in order to give the Council reasonable control of the advertising material whilst at the same time raising a reasonable level of income, option 2, as detailed in Report E to the Cabinet, that will allow ticket suppliers to advertise on tickets with restrictions on the advertising material, be adopted, subject to the Portfolio Holder's approval being sought before the content of any advert is agreed.

**129. STREET NAMING AND NUMBERING SERVICE – CALL IN (REPORT F).**

The Cabinet considered a report from the Economy and Planning Review Panel in relation to the Call-In of a decision in connection with the Council's street naming and numbering protocol.

**RESOLVED:**

That the view of the Economy and Planning Review Panel that the decision of the Economy & Planning Portfolio Holder, concerning the process to be followed for street naming and numbering is appropriate and should not be changed, be noted.

**130. NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY – APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS.**

**RESOLVED:**

That Cllrs Heron, Rickman, S S Wade and Mrs Wyeth be appointed as this Council's members on the New Forest National Park Authority.

CHAIRMAN

(DEMOCRAT/CB020305/MINUTES.DOC)