

1 JUNE 2005

**NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Wednesday, 1 June 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:**

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

**In Attendance:**

**Councillors:**

C J Baker  
Mrs J L Cleary  
F R Harrison  
R J Neath  
L R Puttock

**Councillors:**

Mrs M J Robinson  
Mrs S I Snowden  
C R Treleaven  
P R Woods

**Also In Attendance:**

Mrs P White, Tenants' Representative.

**Officers Attending:**

N Gibbs, C Malyon, J Mascal, Mrs L Battersby, G Bettle, Miss G O'Rourke, C Read, and, for part of the meeting, G Ashworth, Ms D Dabrowska, and J Ward.

**3. PETER THOMPSON.**

The Chairman referred to the sad and untimely death on 19 May 2005 of Peter Thompson, a popular and committed member of the Democratic Services team. The thoughts of all were with his family at this sad time. Those present stood in silent tribute to Peter's memory.

**4. MINUTES.**

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 4 and 16 May 2005, having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

Cllrs Heron, Kendal and Rickman declared a personal interest in the subject matter of minute 13.

**6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**

No issues were raised during the public participation period.

**7. NEW FOREST DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN FIRST ALTERATION (REPORT A).**

The Cabinet considered representations made in the recent public consultation on proposed modifications to the Local Plan First Alteration, agreed by Council in January 2005 and formally published in February.

Having regard to the responses to the representations made and the reasons for those responses, the Cabinet were of the view that no further modifications needed to be made to the New Forest District Local Plan First Alteration and it was not necessary to hold a public inquiry.

**RECOMMENDED:**

- (a) *That no further modifications be made to the New Forest District Local Plan First Alteration in response to representations received on the Proposed Modifications and on the Council's decision not to accept certain Inspector's recommendations (as published on 11th February 2005);***
- (b) *That no further Public Inquiry be held into the objections received;***
- (c) *That the Council publishes the Notice of Intention to Adopt (28 days after the date of publication of the Notice) the New Forest District Local Plan First Alteration incorporating the Proposed Modifications published on 11 February 2005, and that following the expiry of the period given in the Notice of Intention to Adopt, the New Forest District Local Plan First Alteration be adopted; and***
- (d) *That the Head of Policy, Design and Information be authorised, in publishing the adopted New Forest District Local Plan First Alteration, to make any necessary editing changes, corrections and updating which do not materially affect the Plan's proposals.***

**8. CAR PARK CHARGES IN BURLEY CAR PARK (REPORT B).**

The Cabinet considered the level of car park charges that had been set for the village car park for the 2005/06 financial year. The increase applied in Burley had been greater than that applied in other car parks because it was believed that demand for parking was sufficiently strong and that the price increase would not deter motorists from using the car park. The Portfolio Holder reported that representations had since been made by visitors, and by the Parish Council and local traders who were concerned that the current level of charges would be detrimental to the economy of the village. Initial monitoring showed evidence of an increased sale of one hour tickets, and a reduction in the sale of two hour tickets. It was the case that the economy of the village relied heavily on summer trade from visitors.

It was necessary to examine the charging regime for individual car parks based on their particular local circumstances, and keep them under review. Given that the April 2005 increase in charges in the Burley car park had been almost double that applied to other town and village car parks, that it was extensively used by visitors not holding a parking clock during the summer months, and that the local economy was heavily dependent on summer visitors, it was not considered that a precedent would be set if the charges for stays under 4 hours were to be reduced to the same level as applied in most other town and village car parks.

Latest projections were that the financial effect of reducing charges should not be as great as estimated in section 6 of the report.

***RECOMMENDED:***

***That the tariff of charges for Burley car park as set out in section 5 of report B to the Cabinet be adopted once the appropriate notices as laid down in the Regulations have been given.***

**9. GARDEN WASTE COLLECTION SCHEME (REPORT C).**

The Garden Waste Collection Scheme was introduced in parts of the District in March 2005, and to date 138 tonnes of waste that would previously have gone to landfill had been sent for composting. The Cabinet considered changes to the original scheme to enable it to be extended to maximise the use of the garden waste collection vehicle and to bring the benefits of increased recycling to other parts of the District. This would also enable the sale of grey garden waste sacks, the contents of which could not be recycled, to cease completely once the new scheme had become District-wide. Full details of how the scheme operated were set out in previous reports to the Refuse and Recycling Working Party.

Members welcomed the introduction of the scheme and supported its extension, in particular the potential for a further decrease in the amount of waste going to landfill.

Members were advised that ways of facilitating use of the scheme by residents who found it difficult to manoeuvre the polypropylene sacks were being considered. The proposal for reduced charges for those who signed up to the scheme part way through the 2005/06 year were also noted and welcomed.

**RECOMMENDED:**

- (a) That a budget virement of £22,450 be approved;**
- (b) That the revised scale of charges for the garden waste collection scheme for 2005/06 as set out in Report C to the Cabinet be approved;**
- (c) That subject to grant funding of the capital items and the balance of running costs breaking even:**
  - (i) The garden waste collection scheme should be extended District wide from 1 April 2006. Appropriate budgets should be approved for 2006/07;**
  - (ii) The sale of grey garden waste sacks be ceased at a date when appropriate to be agreed by the Portfolio Holder and the Director of Commercial Services; and**
  - (iii) The Council should implement a legal ban on garden waste in the household waste stream at a date when appropriate to be agreed by the Portfolio Holder and the Director of Commercial Services.**

**10. NEW MILTON AND LYMINGTON HEALTH AND LEISURE CENTRES – FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR EXTENSION WORK (REPORT D).**

The Cabinet considered funding arrangements to enable extension work to be undertaken at both New Milton and Lymington Health and Leisure Centres. The proposal was that this work would be part funded from the Lymington Sports Hall refurbishment budget. The degree of urgency of various projects had continuously to be balanced against each other, and members were advised that there were now no plans to refurbish and redecorate the Sports Hall from the 2006/07 budget. The need for this work would be reviewed in later years.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the two extension schemes at Lymington and New Milton Health and Leisure centres be combined as one contract for time and potential cost savings;**
- (b) That £18,000 be vired from the Lymington Sports Hall refurbishment budget to the budget for the combined schemes; and**

- (c) That a supplementary estimate of £13,000 be approved to enable the completion of these two schemes within 2005/06.

**11. COMMERCIAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE – SERVICE PLAN 2005/06 (REPORT E).**

The Cabinet considered the Commercial Services Directorate Service Plan for 2005/06. The constitution of the Partnership between NFDC and Test Valley Borough Council required that an annual business plan was prepared and agreed by the two parent authorities. The Plan had already been approved by the Commercial Services Joint Committee subject to a few minor amendments.

The health and safety of its employees was of paramount importance to both authorities, and quarterly reports to the Joint Committee included much information on health and safety and risk management, such as steps to reduce the likelihood of accidents and injuries, and monitoring of performance. For future years, consideration would be given to including information on this subject in the service plan.

It was noted that the Employee Side comments concerning the fulfilment of Single Status (not included in the text of the service plan but quoted verbatim in the covering report) applied predominantly to Test Valley Borough Council.

**RECOMMENDED:**

***That the 2005/06 Service Plan for the Commercial Services Directorate, as set out in Appendix 1 to Report E, be approved.***

**12. PERFORMANCE MATTERS : PERFORMANCE PLAN 2005/06 (REPORT F).**

The Cabinet considered matters concerning the Council's 2005/06 Performance Plan, including changes to this year's Plan, arrangements for approval, and performance indicator schedules by Portfolio. There was a statutory requirement for full Council to approve the Plan by 30 June annually, and it was an important part of the Council's Performance Management process.

The purpose of the report was to keep members aware of changes in this year's Plan, and to enable them to challenge performance and drive the process of continuous improvement. While it was accepted that much of the data could be difficult for the public to interpret, the main purpose of the plan was as a management tool for members, officers, and partners of the Council. Performance would be examined by Review Panels, who could then recommend action to Portfolio Holders as part of a continuous performance management process. While the last CPA assessment rated the Council as excellent and improving, it was still important to strive for further improvement.

The “traffic light” system had been used to help members identify areas of good or improving performance, and areas that warranted further examination. It was noted that there could be a variety of reasons why any particular indicator could show a “red traffic light”. For example, in the indicator for staff with disabilities it was due to the fact that the Council did not hold up-to-date information on the number of employees with a disability. This could be rectified by undertaking an employee survey, which might or might not lead to action being proposed. The high cost of refuse collection was consistent across Hampshire districts, and correlated with the high level of recycling achieved in the County. In another area, a red light for net expenditure per head of population was based on expenditure forecasts for future years. This was not a statutory performance indicator, and raised the question whether different measurement criteria would be more appropriate. In other areas, the Council was only a minor contributor to the delivery of a service, so had little overall control on how effective delivery was.

Examples such as these demonstrated that a red light did not necessarily indicate poor performance, but areas that were worthy of particular examination. In view of this, it was felt that the Review Panels’ attention should be drawn to these areas and they should be invited to undertake such examination. Where a particular performance indicator was not statutory, the Panels could also be asked to consider whether other more appropriate indicators could be used.

**RECOMMENDED:**

- (a) That the 2005/06 Performance Plan be approved;**
- (b) That the proposed changes to the 2005/06 Performance Plan as detailed in Report F to the Cabinet be approved;**
- (c) That the proposals for approval of the 2005/06 Performance Plan as detailed in Report F to the Cabinet be approved;**
- (d) That the Review Panels be invited to examine in particular those areas where the performance indicator system identified an overall performance trend and comparison in the “red” zone (overall performance trend and comparison poor or getting worse), and also to consider whether non-statutory indicators used were the most appropriate method of measurement.**

**13. APPOINTMENT OF MONITORING OFFICER AND SECTION 151 OFFICER FOR THE NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY.**

Cllrs Heron, Kendal and Rickman declared a personal interest in this item as members of the New Forest National Park Authority. They did not consider their interest to be prejudicial and participated in the vote.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That Miss Grainne O'Rourke and Mrs Rosemary Rutins be appointed as Monitoring Officer and Deputy Monitoring Officer respectively to the National Park Authority; and
- (b) That Mrs Pat Higgins be appointed as the Section 151 Officer to the National Park Authority.

CHAIRMAN

(DEMOCRAT/CB010605/MINUTES.DOC)