

7 SEPTEMBER 2005

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Wednesday, 7 September 2005.

- 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:

Mrs J Cleary
D Harrison
F R Harrison
R J Neath
G J Parkes
L R Puttock
Mrs M J Robinson

Councillors:

D N Scott
Mrs B Smith
Mrs S I Snowden
C R Treleaven
J G Ward
Dr M N Whitehead
P R Woods

Also In Attendance:

Mrs P White and Mrs A Murphy (Tenants' Representative).

Officers Attending:

D H Yates, N J Gibbs, C Malyon, J Mascal, J Bull, Miss G O'Rourke and A Rogers.

37. MINUTES (REPORT A).

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 August 2005, having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

38. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Cllr Mrs Robinson declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 4 (Consultation on Community Services for Older People).

Cllr Mrs Holding declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 4 (Consultation on Community Services for Older People).

39. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

No issues were raised during the public participation period.

40. CONSULTATION ON COMMUNITY SERVICES FOR OLDER PEOPLE (REPORT B).

Cllr Mrs Robinson declared a personal interest as Chairman of the Hampshire Partnership NHS Trust. She considered that such interest was not prejudicial and remained in the meeting to speak. She did not have a vote.

Cllr Mrs Holding declared a personal interest as a Co-opted Member of the Primary Care Trust Board. She considered that such an interest was not prejudicial and remained in the meeting to speak and vote.

The Cabinet considered the Council's response to a consultation document on Community Services for older people, produced by the South West Hampshire Primary Care Trusts (SWHPCT).

The following persons addressed the Cabinet. All expressed opposition to all options proposed by the SWHPCT in their consultation document:-

- Dr T McEwen - Chawton House Surgery, Lymington
- Prof M Hall – Concerned with Fenwick Hospital
- Mr J Beaumont – Alzheimer's Carer and Member of New Forest Patients and Public Involvement Forum and Reference Group Forum
- Ms C Tomlinson – Recently Retired Practice Nurse of 16 years and former PCT Committees Member, New Milton and Barton-on-Sea Committee Nursing
- Mrs J Badham – Milford-on-Sea War Memorial Hospital League of Friends
- Mrs A Hickman - Fordingbridge League of Friends
- Mrs J Carr - Hythe Hospital League of Friends
- Ms S Roch – Hythe Resident
- Mrs R Westall – New Milton Resident
- Mr P Checksfield – Romsey Resident/Employed in Pharmaceutical Industry

The Cabinet asked detailed questions of each of the speakers. The Leader of the Council together with other members thanked the speakers for taking the trouble to attend and congratulated them on presenting such forceful arguments. In doing so, the speakers had imparted some very useful points that the Council would make good use of in preparing its response to the proposals set out in the consultation document.

Members discussed these and other issues and made a number of points, which are set out below:-

Clinicians should have greater control over deciding local priorities, rather than having to comply with National Targets.

Concern was expressed about the lack of clarity on whether bed closures or whether hospital closures were being proposed and whether it was Government policy to make such closures.

Members queried the percentage spend on administration versus patient care.

Members also queried to what extent Doctors in the area had been consulted and what their views were.

There were repeated references to the lack of clarity in the financial information set out in the consultation document which made it very difficult to get a true picture of the implications of the proposal and the claimed benefits accrued.

Although the document purported to focus on community services specifically for older people, it appeared that the proposals would also have adverse consequences for younger people which had not been addressed.

It was noted that, of the five original options, three had been withdrawn, broadly leaving the two remaining options:-

- (i) Closure of all hospital beds;
- (ii) The closure of more than half of the present number of hospital beds.

It appeared that the PCTs were reacting primarily to a huge financial deficit, rather than putting patients first.

The Community Hospitals had been strategically placed in order to best meet the needs of the populations they served, and therefore if one of these hospitals were removed it would seriously disrupt equality of provision in the area. Furthermore if hospitals were closed the properties would be sold if no other use were found. It would be very difficult to find other uses, and the market price was likely to be too high for the Council to intervene and assist in their retention. Any capital receipts from the sale of such properties would be absorbed into a central pool rather than the funds being made available locally. The sale of such community assets would no doubt be turned into a lucrative property development, which the Council could not agree to.

The loss of valuable day care services would be acutely felt by its users.

The loss of any hospitals would cause particular difficulties for patients in the New Forest as the rural nature of the area exacerbated the already considerable transport problems. There was for instance no transport between Hythe and Milford.

The Chairman drew attention to correspondence from Sir Wilfrid Newton, who had in the past run a number of major corporations and had produced a summary of key figures from the NFPCT's accounts for the year ended 31/03/04. The figures showed the extent to which deficits had risen, due to increased operating costs, and despite seemingly reasonable budget provision from the NHS. Sir Wilfrid felt that more could be done to reduce costs by eliminating less essential services and concentrating on core activities.

It was felt that the arguments put forward by the PCT were not strong enough to justify closing community hospitals simply to resolve financial deficits. The PCT Strategy was unconvincing, the finances were confused and the rationale unclear. The closures would produce relatively small savings, and in any case reorganisation should be based primarily on medical reasons:

Attention was drawn to a letter dated 2 August 2005 from Cllr Dr R J Ellis, Chairman of Hampshire County Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to Mr John Richards of the New Forest PCT, together with Mr Richards' reply. Members agreed with and supported many of the valuable points raised in Dr Ellis' letter which closely echoed the views of the Council.

Members agreed that the Council's response must be unanimous and above political allegiances.

Community contributions and contributions from the League of Friends organisations had not been taken properly into account. The Chairman requested the League of Friends Representatives to forward any figures on the level of financial support that they had given or proposed to give in this and recent financial years.

It was noted that the PCTs, (including New Forest PCT would itself be reorganised in the near future and would become commissioning bodies with a result that GPs have a much more direct influence on spending priorities. The Government's Choice Agenda would see the separation of provision from the PCT's by December 2008. Community hospitals would as a result be run by a different body than was currently the case. The Council could have a key role in deciding how these future arrangements emerged.

The point was made that part closure of buildings, or bed closures, were not the cost effective solution. For example, experience had shown that buildings tended to deteriorate when they were not heated for long periods of time.

Some members felt the statistics contained in the consultation document may have been presented in a misleading way in order to support the PCT's arguments.

Members felt that the way in which the consultation had been conducted undermined the public's confidence in the Trust and its management.

It was felt that evolution, not revolution, was required and change should not be driven by short term financial concerns.

One member did accept that some change was necessary, given that the situation was completely different from the service provided 20 years ago.

Members strongly disputed the suggestions that home support could be more cost effective than retaining hospitals. The quoted costs in the press (£86 per week for home visits, compared to £210 per patient per week for hospital care) seemed unrealistic, especially given the likely difficulties of recruiting extra staff, and their related transport costs across rural parts of the Forest.

At the Chairman's invitation, Cllr Dr Whitehead agreed to assist in the preparations of the Council's response, given her background and expertise in health issues.

In conclusion the Chairman felt that, given all that the Cabinet had heard from the 10 speakers at the meeting, many of whom with considerable knowledge and first hand experience, together with correspondence and other information considered, and including the issues paper circulated at the meeting, the Cabinet should recommend to the Council that it respond to the consultation paper by opposing all the options proposed.

The Chief Executive undertook to ensure that the public participants and other people contacting the Council about the issue would each receive a copy of the Council's response. The Chairman explained that the Council's response would also be sent to the Chairman of the Hampshire County Council Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSE), with the request that the HOSE veto the PCT's proposals and delay any decision until 2008.

The Chairman wished to emphasise that the Council would continue to work closely with the PCT in what ever future form it took.

RECOMMENDED:

That, following the representations from members of the public together with other information received and Cabinet discussions, a response be drafted for consideration by the Council with the aim of producing a unanimous Council response. This response should reject all the options set out in the document.

41. SETTING THE COST OF PARKING CLOCKS FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY 2006 – 31 DECEMBER 2006 (REPORT C).

Members considered the cost of parking clocks in 2006 and related issues. The Portfolio Holder's comments, and a letter received from Hythe and Dibden Parish Council, were circulated.

The proposals involved changes to the current parking clock scheme and formed the next stage in the Council's traffic management plans. Following the introduction of decriminalised parking in January 2006, the Council would be in a position to consider whether further amendments to parking provisions were appropriate

The aims of the package of proposals were to encourage use of town and village shops to keep town and village centres vibrant, while discouraging congestion in long-stay car parks

The financial effect of the proposed charging regime was hard to quantify, although an estimate was that income from the sale of parking clocks could raise annual income in 2006 to about £720,000, as opposed to £332,200 for 2005. Any profits from off street parking would go into the General Fund and could then be used to improve transport services or any other areas.

It was noted that all parish councils and a number of other organisations would be consulted on the new scheme before a decision was taken. It was intended that a special meeting of the New Forest Business Partnership would be arranged in order to discuss the proposals. The importance of protecting the viability of town and village trade was recognised.

A member expressed concern that the tight timescale for the consultation exercise would make it difficult for consultees to respond adequately. Members were pleased to see that Hythe Ferry had been given special consideration.

Although it was acknowledged that the scheme had partly been designed to protect the vitality of the town businesses, there was a need to consider also the interests of the people who worked in towns who had no choice but to drive in order to get to work. There was a need for car share incentives. The Chairman explained that it was intended to consider a car share scheme in 2006. Reference was made to Hampshire County Council's proposals to close certain bus services and a member queried whether this issue would be considered jointly with the new parking proposals. In reply the Chairman of the Council explained that he had opposed the closure of at least three of the bus routes proposed.

Members noted that consultation would be undertaken over the coming weeks, and, once responses were received, a final decision will be taken by the Council on 24 October 2005. The proposals were also subject to the County Council's consent.

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) ***That officers be authorised to take the appropriate steps laid down in the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) Regulations to advertise amendments to the District of New Forest (Off-Street Parking Places) Order to:***
- (i) ***implement a parking clock scheme as follows:***
- a short-term or shoppers clock, at a cost of £8 for the 2006 calendar year or part thereof, enabling parking for up to 3 hours in any town or village centre car park;***
- a District-wide parking clock, at a cost of £80 for the 2006 calendar year or part thereof (or £44 for the 6 month periods commencing 1 January and 1 July or part thereof), enabling parking for up to the maximum period permitted in any town or village centre, or any amenity, car park;***
- (ii) ***increase to 3 hours the maximum period for which vehicles may wait between 8.00 a.m and 6.00 p.m in all town and village centre car parks where a 2 hour maximum currently applies;***
- (b) ***That officers be authorised to take the appropriate steps laid down in the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) Regulations to amend the District of New Forest (Off-Street Parking Places) Order to implement the following charges for amenity car park permits for the 2006 calendar year:***

Category of applicant	Proposed charge (1 March to 31 October 2006)
<i>Residents of New Forest District</i>	<i>£45.00 per permit</i>
<i>Non-residents of New Forest District</i>	<i>£50.00 per permit</i>
<i>Additional registration on same permit (maximum 2 vehicles)</i>	<i>£6.00 per permit</i>
<i>Replacement permit</i>	<i>£6.00 per permit</i>

- (c) *That consultations be undertaken with Hythe Ferry owners and Hythe and Dibden Parish Council with a view to establishing special arrangements for Hythe Ferry users; and*
- (d) *That consultations be undertaken with Community Centres where users are reliant on Council-owned off street car parks, with a view to establishing special arrangements to assist appropriate Community Centre users.*

42. HAMPSHIRE LOCAL PUBLIC SERVICE AGREEMENT – THE SECOND GENERATION (LPSA2) (REPORT D).

The Cabinet considered the level of the Council's commitment to various Government performance targets in respect of the LPSA2. Suggested amendments to Appendix 1 (page 6) and additions to Appendix 2, page 10 (in respect of target numbers 5, 7, 8 and 12 were circulated and agreed. These changes are reflected in the appendices attached to these minutes.

RESOLVED:

That the level of sign up to LPSA2 indicated in Appendix 1 be agreed subject to the success negotiations on specific activities set out in Appendix 2.

43. APPLEMORE HEALTH AND LEISURE CENTRE - SUSPENSION OF FINANCIAL REGULATIONS.

RESOLVED:

That the decision of the Director of Resources to suspend Financial Regulations and agree urgent virement to enable the completion of a refurbishment scheme at Applemore Health and Leisure centre be noted.

44. AMENDMENT TO SCHEME OF DELEGATIONS.

RESOLVED:

That the following officers be added to the list of officers with power of entry and inspections under the Coast Protection Act 1949:

Coastal Projects Officer
Coastal Process Scientist
Coastal Process Team Leader
Coastal Surveyor
Coastal Warden
GIS Analyst
River Warden

CHAIRMAN

(DEMOCRAT/CB070905/MINUTES.DOC)

Attachments: Appendices 1 & 2 – Minute No. 42

APPENDIX 1

Main Priority: Tackling barriers to recruitment

Priority for improvement (Outcome)	Target(s)	Indicator(s)	Proposed level of NFDC sign up
1. Increased work opportunities and employment through raising skill levels and educational attainment	1. Raising skills levels amongst the relatively under skilled	i. School leavers literacy and numeracy levels ii. adult NVQ level 2	3
	2. Raising pupil attainment and staying on rates into post 16 education/training and reducing exclusions and levels of absence in targeted schools	i. 5+ A*-C/A*-G GCSE ii. CLA with above iii. Staying on rates for 16/17 year olds iv. CLA in education training or employment at age 19 v. excluded pupils and attendance at targeted schools	2
2. Increased economic activity in predominantly rural areas and with groups currently under represented in the labour market in urban areas	3. Increased number of SMEs starting up and surviving in predominantly rural areas	i. Start ups ii. Survival rates	2
	4. Increased number of SMEs started by women in urban areas	i. Start ups by women ii. Survival rates of start ups by women	3

Main Priority: Helping people feel safe

Priority for improvement (Outcome)	Target(s)	Indicator(s)	Proposed level of NFDC sign up
3. Reducing violent crime	5. reducing incidences of violence in public places	i. Crime stats (Police) ii. Sales of alcohol to under 18s	2
	6. reducing re-offending rates of young offenders	i. Re-offending rates (YOT)	3
4. Reducing fear of crime and helping people feel safer	7. reduce deliberate fires	i. Deliberate fires (HFRS)	2
	8. more residents feel safe	i. MORI survey ii. Satisfaction with ACSOs	2
	9. fewer school children victims of crime	i. School survey (LEA and schools)	3
5. Safer roads and journeys	10. reduced number of killed and seriously injured on Hampshire's roads	i. No's killed and seriously injured	3

Main Priority: Healthy Communities

Priority for improvement (Outcome)	Target(s)	Indicator(s)	Proposed level of NFDC sign up
6. Improved health and life expectancy	11. Increased no of adults adopting healthier lifestyle	i. 30 minutes moderate activity 5 times a week	2
	12. Improved health of children under 11 by reducing overweight and obesity (over 5 years)	i. Children classified as overweight or obese	2
	13. Lives saved by faster emergency response times	i. Category A emergency calls response time	3
7. Improved quality of life and independence for vulnerable older people	14. Reduce emergency bed days of older people	i. Unplanned admissions ii. Average length of stay	2
8. Increased participation in community activities	15. Increased number and extent of people participating in local voluntary and community activities	i. No of people by type of activity ii. Frequency of participation iii. Extent of participation	2
9. Improved housing for vulnerable people	16. More people with social care needs able to access appropriate and affordable housing	i. No people assessed as having social care needs who sign licence or lease for homes allocated as affordable	2

Main Priority: Creating an environment to be proud of

Priority for improvement (Outcome)	Target(s)	Indicator(s)	Proposed level of NFDC sign up
10. Cleaner public places	17. Improved cleanliness of land and highways and condition of streets and pavement	i. BV199 ii. BV187	2
11. Greater commitment to sustainable use of natural resources in the commercial and public sectors	18. Increased tonnage of waste diverted from landfill through greater participation in recycling by local private and public sector organisations	i. No tonnes commercial waste recycled per annum ii. No local authorities offering recycling facilities to SMEs iii. No schools and public sector sites involved in recycling	2

Main Cross cutting priority

Priority for improvement (Outcome)	Target(s)	Indicator(s)	Proposed level of NFDC sign up
12. Improved transport	19. Increased average growth in bus patronage on Quality Bus Partnership routes	ii. Average growth in patronage on QBP routes	3

APPENDIX 2

DETAIL OF NFDC ACTIVITY AS A LEVEL 2 PARTNER IN LPSA2

Target Ref No	Target	NFDC Activity	Resource Issues	Comments
2	Reducing levels of exclusions and absence in targeted schools	<p>Youth Sports Projects (3 schools) to more directly engage with schools on exclusion agenda.</p> <p>Facilitate new sub group / mechanism related to the Children and Young People CAN to integrate active agencies & build on recent seminar.</p> <p>Forest Forge has NFDC and external funding to operate the 'Out of Joint Forum', specifically aimed at this audience. Could publicise the work.</p>	<p>As presented, these activities can be delivered within current budgets.</p> <p>However, if there were pump priming resources, their scope could be extend into areas that may not be covered e.g. under-performing schools, in the case of this target</p>	<p>The extension of project delivery such as 'Out of Joint' would need new funding. A submission has been offered previously but no comment.</p> <p>Likely to be wound up into CYPP so as long as networking and promotion are acceptable – should be OK</p> <p>Pump prime needs communication.</p>
3	Increased number of SME's starting up and surviving in predominantly rural areas	Business Support Officer now in post. There is now capacity for more support – over and above what happens now.	This is, in effect to LPSA 2, a new resource so will be added input to this target.	Lead has framed approach. OK
4	Increased number of SMEs started by women in urban areas	A level three now but there could be an incidental contribution as a result of action under target 3.		

5	Reducing incidences of violence in public places	We will explore joint enforcement of under age alcohol sales with HCC. This will involve authorising our staff under HCC Regulator Service Powers. A joint training programme will be devised to ensure that both organisations are happy that the staff meets the necessary competency standards.	Additional training costs may be absorbable. However it would work better if an additional 0.5 of an enforcement officer could be provided by the LPSA funding.	Under the new Initial Police Learning & Development Programme (IPLDP) we will offer to provide a placement opportunity for one of their officers. This will enable further work on enforcement to be done for our mutual benefit.
7	Reducing deliberate fires	Projects are being undertaken through the CDRP focusing on the reduction of fire setting by under 18's identified as fire setting or at risk of fire setting.	Within existing CDRP resources – no additional NFDC resources available.	This target dependent on the continued funding by the CDRP by GOSE.
8	More residents feeling safe	We will continue to work across the CDRP to improve community confidence.	Within existing CDRP resources – no additional NFDC resources available.	This target is dependent on the continued funding of the CDRP by GOSE.
11	Increased number of adults adopting healthier lifestyle	Promotion of swimming programme – use of pump prime to publicise. Area based programme in Pennington, could be promoted to raise awareness	Marginal cost of swimming can be catered for. New marketing for this or new programmes needs funds.	There is some activity without additional resources but new programmes would need finance. HCC lead outline for target has been framed. OK Pump prime not decided.

Target Ref No	Target	NFDC Activity	Resource Issues	Comments
12	Reducing overweight & obesity in children under 11	Appointment of a project worker for 3 days per week to work with a strategic lead at the PCT and the Healthy Schools Team in targeted areas of deprivation to link together existing programmes & schemes.	Costs would be approx £17k pa for 2.5/3 days pw. NFDC to provide 50% if LPSA could provide the other half.	Dependent on pump priming money being available.
14	Reduced emergency bed days of older people	'Active for Life' programme works with groups of C.20 to increase independence and mobility – can deliver one or two programmes p.a.	There are resources to provide one or two programmes p.a.	No communication from sub group lead
15	Increased number and extent of people participating in local voluntary and community activities	Development Team support in community capacity building and creating links to training and other opportunities. Fostering of CAN and other links. Appropriate emphasis in CFNF Service Level Agreement	This is the allocation of time / making the most of contacts made in the community. This is already well established	Eastleigh VSC lead pump prime / outline not framed – meeting 30 th August. Communications suggest its likely match our capability. So probably OK
16	More people with social care needs able to access appropriate and affordable housing	Agreed that up to 5 lettings per year should be made available for residents with assessed care needs who are nominated by Social Services	No significant implications.	The proposal means that properties will not be available for applicants who would otherwise have been eligible through the Choice Based Lettings scheme.

Target Ref No	Target	NFDC Activity	Resource Issues	Comments
				The potential grant reward may, however, give the opportunity to replace lettings foregone with new provision in the future.
17	Improved cleanliness of land and highways and condition of streets and pavements	Six areas of improvement have been agreed with Portfolio Holder. These have now been submitted to the County Council via the Head of Environment at Havant Borough Council, who is acting as lead officer for the initiative.	As part of our submission we have requested some pump priming monies to allow us to improve the cleanliness of the areas identified	Havant BC are the lead Authority for this initiative. We have chosen 6 areas where with the aid of some additional pump priming funding we can make a difference to the standard street cleansing currently being achieved. The County Council will where appropriate be able to improve the condition of the paved areas as part of a more joined up working arrangement in these 6 areas
18	Increased tonnage of waste diverted from landfill through greater participation in recycling by local private and public sector organisations	Minimal progress, despite representations being made to move forward the initiative by New Forest District Council officers.	No significant implications at this present time but a more detailed plan will need to be undertaken once this initiative develops.	NFDC already have a approx 800 commercial Waste customers to our credit. The target for this area of work which has yet to be agreed will

Target Ref No	Target	NFDC Activity	Resource Issues	Comments
				allow us to work with HCC to encourage more businesses to recycle their waste. Minimal progress has been made, despite representations being made to move this initiative forward the initiative by New Forest District Council officers.