

7 FEBRUARY 2007

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Wednesday, 7 February 2007.

e Cllr M J Kendal (Chairman)
p Cllr B Rickman (Vice-Chairman) (In the chair)

Councillors:

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

Councillors:

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

In Attendance:

Councillors:

C Baker
Mrs J L Cleary
M H G Fidler
C J Harrison
Mrs M Humber
R J Neath

Councillors:

Sqn Ldr B M F Pemberton
D N Scott
Mrs B Smith
Mrs S I Snowden
J G Ward
A Weeks

Also In Attendance:

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

Officers Attending:

C Malyon, J Mascall, Ms J Bateman, D Brown, Miss G O'Rourke and C Read and for part of the meeting Ms J Norman.

83. MINUTES.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 January 2007, having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

84. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Cllr Fidler declared an interest in Minute 87.

85. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

No issues were raised during the public participation period.

86. REVIEW OF THE HOUSING ENFORCEMENT POLICY (REPORT A).

Following the introduction of the Housing, Health and Safety Rating System and the new enforcement powers in the Housing Act 2004, the Cabinet considered a revised Housing Enforcement Policy. The Cabinet noted that the Housing Portfolio Holder and the Housing, Health and Social Inclusion Review Panel both supported the revised proposals.

RESOLVED:

That the revised Housing Enforcement Policy attached as Appendix 1 to Report A to the Cabinet be agreed.

87. BLACKFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE (REPORT B).

Cllr Fidler declared a personal interest as a past trustee of the Blackfield Neighbourhood Centre. He did not consider his interest to be prejudicial. He remained at the meeting. He did not have a vote.

The Cabinet considered revised arrangements for the management of the Blackfield Neighbourhood Centre. Members agreed that the centre provided a valuable service for the local community and it should be supported. The Tenants' Representatives also supported the proposals.

RESOLVED:

That the proposals for the future management of the Blackfield Neighbourhood Centre as set out in Report B to the Cabinet be agreed.

88. THE FUTURE OF CENTRAL CONTROL (REPORT C).

In June 2006 the Cabinet considered proposals for the future delivery of the monitoring service for the Council's out of hours service and the sheltered housing and lifeline customers and agreed that expressions of interest be invited from local control centre operators to provide the service.

The Cabinet considered the detail of the selection and tender process. Members noted that the Housing, Health and Social Inclusion Review Panel felt that the process had been very thorough and they supported the proposal. Mrs White, Tenants' Representative, said that the tenants supported the proposals and were pleased that the emergency calls would now be separated from general

maintenance calls. The tenants felt that this would provide an enhanced service. Cllr Pemberton, the Chairman of the Working Party overseeing the selection process, said that Tunstall Response, the preferred provider, had clearly demonstrated their ability to undertake the role and he had no concerns that they were not locally based.

RESOLVED:

That Tunstall Response be appointed to provide the Council's central control service as from 1 April 2007 at an annual cost of £59,411.

89. FINANCIAL REPORT – FORECAST FULL YEAR AND ACTUAL FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 2006 TO DECEMBER 2006 (REPORT D).

The Cabinet considered the forecast budget variations of all portfolios and committees from the approved original estimates for 2006/07. Members noted that a full briefing note would be sent to local members advising them of the detail of the purchase of a property in Hythe for the improvement of the Council's land holdings.

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) That, in the Housing Revenue Account budget, a supplementary estimate of £70,000 in respect of service charge income be agreed; and**
- (b) That it be noted that in accordance with Financial Regulation 1.3, the Director of Resources suspended Financial Regulations, in order that additional capital expenditure of £260,000 could be incurred on the purchase of a property in Hythe for the improvement of the Council's land holding on adjoining properties.**

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the items set out in the revised General Fund budget in Appendix 1 to Report D to the Cabinet be approved;
- (b) That the revised capital expenditure programme as set out in Appendix 2 to Report D to the Cabinet be approved;
- (c) That, subject to the recommendation above, the revised Housing Revenue Account budget, as set out in Appendix 3 to Report D to the Cabinet be approved;
- (d) That the financial position of Commercial Services, as set out in section 5 of Report D to the Cabinet be noted; and
- (e) That the actual expenditure to profiled budget positions of the General Fund, Capital Programme and Housing Revenue Account, as set out in Appendices 1 to 3 of Report D to the Cabinet be noted.

90. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2007/08 (REPORT E).

The Cabinet considered a strategy for the treasury management function of the Council for 2007/08. Members noted the detail of the financing of the capital expenditure for 2007/08 and the borrowing and investment of funds.

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) That the prudential indicators as detailed in Appendix 1 to Report E to the Cabinet be approved; and**
- (b) That the treasury management strategy be approved and the treasury prudential indicators as detailed in Appendix 2 to Report E to the Cabinet be adopted.**

91. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT ESTIMATES 2007/08 (REPORT F).

The Cabinet considered the updated Housing Revenue Account estimates with the details of the most recent variations.

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) That an average increase of 5% in rents for 2007/08; in line with rent restructuring guidelines be agreed; and**
- (b) That the updated budget as set out in Appendix 1 to Report F to the Cabinet be agreed.**

92. GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2007/08 (REPORT G).

The Cabinet considered the draft General Fund revenue and capital budgets for the financial year 2007/08.

Members noted that a report would be made to them at their meeting in March in relation to two Notices of Motion that had been presented to the Council. In October 2006, Cllr Shepherd proposed that a Green Audit be undertaken. In December 2006, Cllr Mrs Smith proposed that an appropriate sum be included in the budget to allow the Council to address issues relating to climate change. Members agreed that it would be more appropriate to address the budget implications once the Green Audit proposals were formulated.

Members considered the comments from Review Panels and Committees and agreed a number of minor amendments to the proposals that had arisen since their meeting in January.

The Cabinet was pleased to note that, considering the level of Government grant, the Council Tax rise had been kept at 3%. They thanked the Finance and Efficiency Portfolio Holder and the Director of Resources for all their hard work in formulating the budget proposals.

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) *That the General Fund budget for 2007/08 be set at £21.836m;*
- (b) *That the Capital Programme for 2007/08 be agreed as £15.751m;*
- (c) *That the Council tax be agreed at £145.22 for a Band D property for 2007/08; and*
- (d) *That the site licence fees and service charges at Stillwater Park be increased by 3.0%.*

RESOLVED:

That, following consideration of the views expressed by Committees and Review Panels the additional budget proposals as set out in section 3 of Report G to the Cabinet be agreed.

93. SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT – DESIGN WASTE MANAGEMENT IN NEW DEVELOPMENT (REPORT H).

The Cabinet considered a draft Supplementary Planning Document on the design of waste management facilities in new developments.

Both the Economy & Planning and Environment Portfolio Holders supported the document and congratulated officers on a very clear and helpful policy.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the comments received on the draft Supplementary Planning Document 'Design of Waste Management Facilities in New Development' be noted, and the responses to the comments set out in Appendix 1 to Report H to the Cabinet be agreed;
- (b) That the Supplementary Planning Document 'Design of Waste Management Facilities in New Development' as set out in Appendix 2 to Report H to the Cabinet be adopted by the Council and published, along with the updated Sustainability Appraisal Report; and
- (c) That the Policy Team Manager be authorised to make any necessary detailed editing or clarification changes in preparing the SPD and the Sustainability Appraisal Report for publication.

94. PROJECT INTEGRA – REVISIONS TO CONSTITUTION AND ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN (REPORT I).

The Cabinet considered some revisions to the Project Integra Constitution together with the annual Business Plan.

The Constitution had been revised to reflect developments over the last five years and to clarify the role of Project Integra and that of its partners. The revised Constitution would generally provide more opportunities for joined up working and collaboration within the scope of the partnership.

The Environment Portfolio Holder supported the proposals and confirmed that each individual authority retained its independent status within the partnership. Members also noted the separate scrutiny arrangements provided by the Project Integra Policy Review and Scrutiny Committee.

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) *That the revised and updated constitution as set out in Appendix A to Report I to the Cabinet for the Project Integra Strategic Board be agreed; and***
- (b) *That the Project Integra Annual Business Plan for 2007 – 2012 as set out in Appendix B to Report I to the Cabinet be approved.***

95. RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY DELEGATIONS UNDER THE GAMBLING ACT 2005.

The Cabinet considered new delegations in relation to the Gambling Act 2005.

RECOMMENDED

- (a) *That the Head of Planning, Development Control Manager, Area Planning Officers, Principal Planning Officer and Senior Planning Officer – Enforcement be authorised to carry out the Council's functions as a responsible authority under section 157 (e) of the Gambling Act 2005; and***
- (b) *That the Environmental Health Manager, Senior Environmental Health Officers, and Environmental Health Officers be authorised to carry out the Council's function as a responsible authority under section 157 (g) of the Gambling Act 2005.***

96. **OUTSIDE BODIES.**

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs Carpenter be appointed to serve on the New Milton Citizens' Advice Bureau.

CHAIRMAN

(DEMOCRAT/CB070207/MINUTES.DOC)