

4 APRIL 2007

**NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Wednesday, 4 April 2007.

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 Harrison  
Mrs M Humber  
R J Neath  
B M F Pemberton  
A W Rice

**Councillors:**

D N Scott  
Mrs S I Snowden  
C R Treleaven  
A Weeks  
P R Woods

**Also In Attendance:**

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

**Officers Attending:**

D Yates, C Malyon, J Mascall, D Brown, Ms J Bateman and Miss G O'Rourke and for part of the meeting G Bettle, Ms D Dabrowska, M Devine and C Elliott.

**103. MINUTES.**

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2007, having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**104. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

Cllr Kendal declared an interest in Minute No. 106  
Cllr Neath declared an interest in Minute No. 109

**105. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**

No issues were raised during the public participation period.

**106. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2006/07 AND KEY TARGETS 2007/08 (REPORT A).**

Cllr Kendal declared a personal interest as the Executive member for the Environment at HCC. He did not consider his interest to be prejudicial. He remained at the meeting, took part in the discussion and voted.

Every year the Council identified its key targets for the year ahead and assessed its performance against targets from the previous year. The Cabinet noted that in 2006/07 the Council had achieved over 79% of the key targets that it had set.

In discussing the detail of the key achievements for 2006/07 the Cabinet made the following points:

**Crime and Disorder Portfolio**

Target 3 - The Cabinet noted that a petition had recently been received from residents and traders in New Milton requesting that consideration be given to the installation of CCTV in the town in the light of increased incidents of vandalism. Some Government funding would shortly become available for the introduction of a "talking CCTV" system and the Cabinet agreed that a bid for funding be explored. The Cabinet also agreed that the possibility of installing CCTV, or upgrading arrangements where they already existed, in New Milton and other towns in the district such as Hythe, Fordingbridge and Totton be investigated, with the availability of Local Authority Business Grant Initiative money used as a source of funding.

**Health and Social Inclusion Portfolio:**

Target 2 – Members noted that more than 230 site inspections had now been carried out and the target was close to being met.

**Housing Portfolio:**

Target 1 – The Cabinet expressed regret that only 42 new affordable dwellings had been completed. The way in which the Government funding was allocated had meant delays in starting schemes. Members were confident that completion targets would be more than met in 2007/08 and noted that work was underway with the National Park to address affordable housing in rural areas.

Target 8 – Members noted that the remit for the development of the Older People's Strategy had been widened to include all major agencies, and as a result the final product would be much improved.

**Policy and Resources:**

Target 5 – The Cabinet were informed that the discussions on future pay awards for employees were now underway with members and the trade unions.

Target 7 – The Cabinet were informed that the number of Council performance indicators either in the top quartile or improving had risen from 57% in 2005/06 to a forecast 69% for 2006/07.

Target 8 – The Cabinet were informed that 85% of the actions in the Community Strategy Action Plan had been delivered.

In discussing the Key Targets for 2007/08 the Cabinet made the following points:

**Crime and Disorder Portfolio:**

The Cabinet agreed to the addition of a new target to reflect the proposal to investigate the installation of CCTV in further areas of the district.

**Economy and Planning Portfolio:**

The Cabinet agreed that target (b) proposed for deletion, be included in the 2007/08 targets, subject to the removal of November 2007 as the target month.

The Cabinet agreed that the following comment be added to target 5:-

This will include a review of the opportunities afforded by the introduction of Planning Policy Supplement 3 (PPS3) and in particular, a review of the formulae for triggering affordable housing contributions.

**Environment Portfolio:**

It was noted that targets 5 & 6 were within the remit of the Health and Social Inclusion Portfolio and would be transferred. Target 6 would also be split into two separate targets.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That, subject to the amendments detailed above and to minor drafting amendments for clarity, the assessment of performance against the 2006/07 key targets be noted;
- (b) That, subject to the amendments detailed above and to minor drafting amendments for clarity, the proposed SMART targets for 2007/08 as detailed in Appendix 2 to Report A to the Cabinet be agreed; and
- (c) That the overall set of targets as amended, mapped against the corporate plan in Appendix 3 to Report A to the Cabinet provides a sufficient and relevant balance across all the key issues for the coming year and will be included in the Council's Performance Plan with particular reference to the Council's priorities.

**107. THE COUNCIL'S IMPROVEMENT PLAN (REPORT B).**

The Cabinet considered progress against the various areas in the Council's Improvement Plan. It was noted that the Plan was constantly evolving as new key challenges presented.

**RESOLVED:**

That progress against the Council's Improvement Plan be noted.

**108. COMMERCIAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE – SERVICE PLAN 2007/08 (REPORT C).**

The Cabinet considered the 2007/08 Service Plan for the Commercial Services Directorate.

**RESOLVED:**

That the 2007/08 Service Plan for the Commercial Services Directorate as set out in Appendix 1 to report C to the Cabinet be approved.

**109. LEISURE FUNDAMENTAL SERVICE PLAN AND REVIEW (REPORT D).**

Cllr Neath declared a personal interest in this item as Chairman of the Leisure Review Panel and a result of his involvement in the review. He did not consider his interest to be prejudicial. He remained at the meeting and took part in the discussion. He did not have a vote.

The Cabinet considered a fundamental review of the Leisure Services Directorate and how it operated. The review had informed a Service Plan that looked across the whole Service, identifying what needed to be improved and how that could be done. It set a direction for the next four years.

The Leisure Portfolio Holder thanked members and officers for the time and effort they had put into undertaking the review so far.

The Chairman commended officers for the excellent way in which the Health and Leisure Centres were managed, particularly bearing in mind the balance required between school use and public use.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the Leisure Service Plan be adopted, with a review in September to take into account the outcomes of the procurement review; and

- (b) That the direction of the procurement review be endorsed, with the assessment of the final options to be presented in September 2007 in order to determine the preferred means of delivery for Health and Leisure Centres and the Tourism Service.

#### 110. LOCAL LAND CHARGES FEES (REPORT E).

In 2007/08 there would be significant changes to the financial regulations, access to information governing the provision of search information, and the way in which information was procured. The Cabinet considered a number of options to maintain the Council's position in the market place. The Cabinet was of the view that to do nothing would result in a substantial loss of the current market share to personal search providers.

##### **RECOMMENDED**

- (i) ***That with effect from 1 May 2007 the fee for a full local authority search be set at £80 (Statutory Search LLC1 and Enquiries of Local Authorities CON29);***
- (ii) ***That with effect from 1 May 2007, the fee for the LLC1 (alone) be set at £40;***
- (ii) ***That the fee be refunded if NFDC cannot respond to the search within 10 working days of receiving the request;***
- (iv) ***That officers continue to work to define the full cost of the land charge search service and how this is broken down between its various components; and***
- (v) ***That a review of the situation be reported to Cabinet in October 2007 or sooner if the finalised financial rules along with the results of the work at (iv) above, suggest that the recommended approach is not sustainable.***

#### 111. MEALS ON WHEELS CHARGES 2007/08 (REPORT F).

The Cabinet considered a proposal to increase the New Forest District Council Meals price by 10p to £2.90 for 2007/08. Hampshire County Council had already set the county price meal at £2.90 for the forthcoming year.

##### **RECOMMENDED:**

***That the meals on wheels price be set at £2.90 for 2007/2008.***

CHAIRMAN