

**1 AUGUST 2007**

**NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Wednesday, 1 August 2007.

p Cllr M J Kendal (Chairman)  
p Cllr B Rickman (Vice-Chairman)

**Councillors:**

e G C Beck  
p Mrs J L Cleary  
p Mrs M D Holding

**Councillors:**

p M H Thierry  
e C R Treleaven  
p C A Wise

**In Attendance:**

**Councillors:**

L T Dunsdon  
Ms L C Ford  
D Harrison  
Mrs M E Lewis  
Sqn Ldr B M F Pemberton  
L R Puttock

**Councillors:**

A W Rice TD  
Mrs M J Robinson  
Mrs B Smith  
Mrs S I Snowden  
F P Vickers

**Also In Attendance:**

Mrs P White, Tenants' Representative

**Officers Attending:**

D Yates, C Malyon, J Mascall, Mrs L Battersby, D Brown and, for part of the meeting, R Sired.

**22. MINUTES.**

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2007, having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

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

**24. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**

No issues were raised during the public participation period.

**25. LEASED LEISURE EQUIPMENT BUYOUT (REPORT A).**

In accordance with Financial Regulations the Cabinet noted the decision of the Director of Resources, taken as a matter of urgency, to suspend Financial Regulations and to approve the lease buy out of leisure equipment, to enable the health and leisure centres and Dibden Golf Centre to place orders for replacement equipment to ensure guaranteed delivery at the most convenient time for them, minimising disruption to their members.

**RECOMMENDED:**

***That the decision taken by the Director of Resources to suspend financial regulations as detailed in Report A to the Cabinet, to approve the buyout of the 4 leases with the following financial implications be noted:***

- (i) a virement of £30,000 from the Totton sports hall store scheme to the leisure equipment purchase budget;***
- (ii) a 2007/08 supplementary capital estimate of £25,000, to be partly funded from associated equipment sale capital receipts of £12,000;***
- (iii) the inclusion of an additional £49,000 in the post 2007/08 Leisure capital expenditure plans, for items re-phased from 2007/08; and***
- (iv) the reduction of £21,000 in 2007/08 leisure revenue budgets and overall leisure revenue budget reductions of £50,000 by 2010/11.***

**26. APPLEMORE HEALTH AND LEISURE CENTRE – ROOFING WORKS (REPORT B).**

The Cabinet considered options for the repair of the roofs at the sports hall and the pool hall at Applemore Health and Leisure centre. The work to the sports hall was urgent and, if left, would lead to an unscheduled closure of the facilities. Members noted that to undertake less urgent work to the roof of the pool hall at the same time would be more financially efficient. The work could be part funded by using the budget currently set aside for the New Milton Health and Leisure centre roof. A survey has shown that that roof is fairly sound and would not need repair for the next 3 to 5 years. The Cabinet noted that, if the budget were vired for works at Applemore Health and Leisure centre, then new funding for the New Milton scheme would need to form part of a future expenditure plan bid.

Members were informed that all major sites in the Council's ownership were being surveyed so that a robust planned maintenance programme could be drawn up. This would minimise the risk of unexpected repairs having to be carried out urgently in the future.

**RECOMMENDED:**

***That a supplementary estimate of £61,000 be approved to part fund both the re-roofing of the sports hall and the pool hall at Applemore Health and Leisure Centre, with the remaining £91,000 of the £152,000 costs being covered by virement from New Milton Health and Leisure Centre capital budget allocations (roof repairs £55,000, pool hall lighting £11,000 and pool hall refurbishment £25,000).***

**RESOLVED:**

That, subject to the above funding arrangements being agreed, the roof repairs to both the sports hall and the pool hall (option 2) be undertaken as a matter of urgency and that it be noted that new funding for the New Milton scheme will need to form part of a future expenditure plan bid.

**27. ST JOHN'S STREET CAR PARK, HYTHE – ADDITIONAL WORKS (REPORT C).**

The Cabinet considered a supplementary estimate to cover the cost of additional works necessary for the successful completion of the St Johns Street Car Park, Hythe refurbishment scheme. It was noted that additional funding had already been agreed for the scheme (detailed in Report F on the agenda). However, during work on the site a substantial area of unsound ground had been found below part of the car park, requiring the removal of about 1250 cubic tonnes of soft material and replacement with an equivalent quantity of granular fill.

Members noted that the additional works were unavoidable, and welcomed the improvements made for the Hythe community. There was discussion as to the advisability of providing greater contingency sums in future capital schemes, and this would be reviewed.

**RECOMMENDED:**

***That a supplementary estimate of £85,870 be approved to cover the cost of additional works necessary for the successful completion of the St Johns Street, Hythe car park refurbishment scheme.***

**28. ANNUAL EFFICIENCY STATEMENT (REPORT D).**

The Cabinet considered the 'Backward Look' Efficiency Statement for 2006/07. The Council is required to submit two annual efficiency statements a year, one looking at proposed actions for the forthcoming year, the other looking back at what had been achieved in the previous year.

Members were pleased to note that the Council had so far achieved efficiencies in excess of the target figure set in the Annual Efficiency Statement, largely by cashable savings.

**RESOLVED:**

That the 2006/07 Backward Look Annual Efficiency Statement be approved for final submission to the Department of Communities and Local Government.

**29. CONSULTATION PAPER ON THE INCENTIVES FOR RECYCLING BY HOUSEHOLDS (REPORT E).**

The Cabinet considered a draft response to a Government consultation paper on incentives for recycling. The consultation paper formed part of the Waste Strategy for England 2007 which was published recently by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

The consultation paper suggested that local authorities should be given the power to introduce charging schemes for household waste under which the net income gained from charging would be balanced by a corresponding reduction in Council Tax. The Government appeared to believe that such an approach would encourage recycling and waste minimisation. If the Government was minded to give local authorities powers to introduce a charging scheme it was essential that there should be no compulsion on local authorities to do so. The costs involved in introducing such a scheme and the administrative complexities of operating it would in practice mean that the potential net savings even for the best recyclers would in all likelihood be insufficient to provide enough of an incentive to change householder behaviour. While the consultation paper was specifically concerned with incentives for recycling by households, members were firmly of the opinion that steps to tackle waste at source were fundamental to giving householders a real opportunity to reduce their waste.

**RESOLVED:**

That the draft response to the consultation paper on incentives for recycling, as set out in Appendix 1 to Report E to the Cabinet, be agreed as this Council's formal response to the Government, subject to the response being strengthened to stress that minimising waste at source is fundamental to achieving reductions in household waste, and the wording of Question 1 being amended to reinforce the Council's scepticism over the proposal.

**30. FINANCIAL REPORT – FORECAST FULL YEAR AND ACTUAL FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 2007 – JUNE 2007 (REPORT F).**

The Cabinet considered the forecast budget variations of all Portfolios and Committees from the approved original estimates for 2007/08. Members were advised of the reasons why the budgeted income from partnering the Central Purchasing Unit with Test Valley Borough Council would not now be achieved.

**RECOMMENDED:**

***That the suspension of financial regulations by the Director of Resources to approve £101,000 in respect of the St John's Car Park, Hythe refurbishment scheme to be funded through virements of £60,000 from other schemes and a supplementary estimate of £41,000 be noted.***

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the revised General Fund budget as set out in Appendix 1 to Report F to the Cabinet be agreed;
- (b) That the revised capital expenditure as set out in Appendix 2 to Report F to the Cabinet be agreed;
- (c) That the financial position of Commercial Services as set out in section 5 of Report F to the Cabinet be noted; and
- (d) 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 F to the Cabinet be noted.

**31. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES.**

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That Cllr Mrs Holding be appointed to serve as the Council's representative on Tourism South East in place of Cllr Hutchins;
- (b) That, in light of the change to their governing principles, Cllr Mrs Holding be appointed to serve on the one place now available to the Council on the New Forest Tourism Association Management Committee; and
- (c) That Cllr Forse be appointed to serve as the Council's representative on the Local Government Association Coastal Issues Special Interest Group in place of Cllr Mrs Carpenter.

**32. DATES OF MEETINGS 2007/08.**

- 4 June 2008
- 7 July 2008 (Monday to accommodate the annual LGA Conference week)
- 6 August 2008
- 3 September 2008
- 1 October 2008
- 5 November 2008
- 3 December 2008

**Cabinet**

**1 AUGUST 2007**

7 January 2009  
4 February 2009  
4 March 2009  
1 April 2009  
6 May 2009

(All Wednesdays (except 7 July 2008) at 10.00 a.m.).

CHAIRMAN

(DEMOCRAT/CB010807/MINUTES.DOC)