

5 MARCH 2008

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Wednesday, 5 March 2008.

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

Councillors:

e G C Beck
p Mrs J L Cleary
p E J Heron

Councillors:

e Mrs M D Holding
p C R Treleaven
p C A Wise

In Attendance:

Councillors:

L T Dunsdon
Ms L C Ford
C J Harrison
D Harrison
Mrs A J Hoare
Mrs M E Lewis
B M F Pemberton

Councillors:

L R Puttock
Mrs M J Robinson
A E J Shotter
Mrs B Smith
R A Wappet
J G Ward
A Weeks

Also In Attendance:

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

Officers Attending:

D Yates, R Jackson, J Mascall, D Brown, C Elliott, and Ms J Bateman and for part of the meeting C Read.

92. MINUTES.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2008, having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to Minute 90, paragraph 3 of the preamble being amended to read:-

“Members hoped that pressure from local authorities, the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Government Association and the national Local Government Association would lead to a change

93. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Councillors Dunsdon and Wappet declared personal interests in Minute No. 97.

94. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

No issues were raised during the public participation period.

95. PROJECT INTEGRA ANNUAL ACTION PLAN (REPORT A).

The Cabinet considered the Annual Action Plan for Project Integra. The Action Plan set out the service priorities for the next five years and associated financial arrangements. The Environment Portfolio Holder supported the proposed Action Plan and said that whilst it set challenging targets, the partnership did produce income of approximately £200,000 for the Council.

In discussing the detail of the Action Plan the Environment Portfolio Holder agreed that waste minimisation was an important aspect however, he pointed out that all recycled materials formed part of the energy from waste process and therefore played their own part. Some members expressed concern at changes in arrangements at household waste recycling centres. The Environment Portfolio Holder said that 17% of waste that went through such centres was shown to be commercial. Waste recycling was an expensive operation and the changes to arrangements had proved necessary to ensure the continued appropriate use of the recycling centres.

In response to a question the Environment Portfolio Holder confirmed that there were no plans to change the current household refuse collection methods and if any such proposals did come forward they would be strongly resisted.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Project Integra Annual Action Plan 2008-2013 be approved.

96. TRANSPORT CONTRIBUTION POLICY (REPORT B).

The Cabinet considered new arrangements for a Transport Contribution Policy. Currently where developments necessitated improvements to transport infrastructure or services off-site, developers were required to contribute to the costs of those improvements with the contributions being directly related in scale and in kind to the proposed development. The transport contributions part of the New Forest District Local Plan (first alteration) had only been applied to larger developments on the specific advice of the Highway Authority. Most developments within NFDC were small scale and hence made no contribution notwithstanding their cumulative impact on the transportation network.

In September 2007 Hampshire County Council adopted a policy which introduced a formulaic approach to calculating transport contributions to define how much each new development should contribute towards transportation improvements. They requested that each District adopt the policy and collect the relevant contributions.

The Planning and Transportation Portfolio Holder said that the Government was committed to introducing a Community Infrastructure Levy on new developments early in 2009 which would provide funding for a wide range of public facilities. With this in mind, and in view of the huge demand for local transport and safety related initiatives, he supported the introduction of a Transport Contribution Policy in the meantime. Such a policy could provide up to £500,000 to be spent locally on locally agreed transport priorities.

Members noted that the Council would still retain discretion to waive the contribution if it was felt that the economic viability of the development might be prejudiced

RESOLVED:

That on all appropriate planning applications received after 1st April 2008 a transportation contribution be sought, by means of a Section 106 agreement, in accordance with the Hampshire County Council policy as applied to Policy DW-T8 of the adopted New Forest District Council Local Plan, First Alteration 2005.

97. ST GEORGES HALL, CALSHOT (REPORT C).

Cllrs Dunsdon and Wappet declared personal interests as members of Fawley Parish Council. They did not consider their interests to be prejudicial. They remained at the meeting. They did not have a vote.

The Cabinet considered arrangements for the future management of St Georges Hall, Calshot.

The Housing Portfolio Holder said that the local area of Calshot was one of very high social need and St Georges Hall and the adjacent play area provided a well used important facility to local families. It was essential that the hall was maintained. There had been difficulty in establishing a properly constituted management committee in the past and the limited opportunity to raise revenue had placed a strain on the individuals concerned. The Housing Portfolio Holder supported the proposal that the Council should take on full responsibility for the repairs and maintenance of the hall as being the most pragmatic approach. Local members also supported the proposals.

RESOLVED:

That the proposals for the future management of St George's Hall, Calshot as detailed in Report C to the Cabinet, to enable the Council to take on full responsibility for the repairs and maintenance of the Hall with the day to day management being undertaken by a local residents management committee be agreed.

98. SENIOR MANAGEMENT REVIEW (REPORT D).

In considering the proposed new Senior Management Structure the Chairman thanked all officers for the hard work they had undertaken in formulating the proposals. The Chairman said that the new structure would provide a more streamlined approach to the future work of the Council.

The Chief Executive said that this was the second stage of the senior management review and aimed to support members in their delivery of the Council's policies. The draft of the new Corporate Plan was now available and the new structure mirrored the Cabinet Portfolios and Review Panels. The new structure would enable the Council to be more flexible and efficient and had also delivered some savings.

The Finance and Efficiency Portfolio Holder supported the proposals and said that they would provide a simple and efficient approach to dealing with cross cutting tasks.

RESOLVED:

That the Senior Management Structure Stage 2, as detailed in Report D to the Cabinet be approved.

CHAIRMAN

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