

**3 SEPTEMBER 2008**

**NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Wednesday, 3 September 2008.

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

**Councillors:**

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

**Councillors:**

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

**In Attendance:**

**Councillors:**

Mrs D M Brooks  
Ms L C Ford  
D Harrison  
P E Hickman  
Mrs K J Lord  
Mrs A E McEvoy  
Sqn Ldr B M F Pemberton

**Councillors:**

L R Puttock  
Mrs A M Rostand  
Mrs B Smith  
Mrs S I Snowden  
A J Swain  
F P Vickers  
P R Woods

**Also In Attendance:**

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

**Officers Attending:**

D Yates, R Jackson, J Mascal, Ms J Bateman and Miss G O'Rourke and for part of the meeting M Devine, Mrs C Gallagher, Mrs R Higgins, R Millard and K Smith.

**33. MINUTES.**

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 August 2008, having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**34. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

Cllr Kendal declared interests in Minute Nos. 38 and 41

Cllr Mrs Rostand declared an interest in Minute No. 38

**35. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**

No issues were raised during the public participation period.

**36. AIR QUALITY ACTION PLANS (REPORT A).**

The Cabinet considered the implementation of air quality action plans for three areas of the district namely Totton, Lyndhurst and Fawley.

Work had been ongoing for some time and, following detailed consultation, a draft air quality action plan had been produced for each of the previously agreed air quality management areas. It was noted that a key part of the action plan process was to engage with key stakeholders and set up a working group for each plan. This would include local members.

**RESOLVED:**

(a) That the following Air Quality Action Plans be adopted:

- Totton Air Quality Action Plan
- Lyndhurst Air Quality Action Plan
- Fawley Air Quality Action Plan

(b) That a bid in the forthcoming expenditure plan process for £10,000 be supported to facilitate modelling work and public consultation to progress the implementation of the Plans in line with the Council's statutory duty to review and assess the air quality in the district.

**37. HAMPSHIRE LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT (LAA) (REPORT B).**

The LAA priorities and targets for Hampshire had now been approved by the Secretary of State. The Cabinet considered signing up to the delivery agreement element of the Hampshire LAA. There were 19 statutory partners actively involved in the New Forest district and the agreement would encourage partnership working between them.

Discussions would be held between all the leads for each theme at county and district level to identify where and how they might be involved in delivery against targets.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Council sign up to the Hampshire Local Area Delivery Agreement (LAA) and give general support to the LAA in its totality.

**38. COUNTRYSIDE EDUCATION TRUST (REPORT C).**

Cllr Kendal declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item as a Trustee of the Countryside Education Trust. He left the meeting during consideration of this item.

Cllr Mrs Rostand declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item as a member of a local fund raising group supporting the Countryside Education Trust. She left the meeting during consideration of this item.

The Vice-Chairman, Cllr Rickman, took the chair for this item.

The Cabinet considered a request from the Countryside Education Trust for financial support towards the completion of its New Forest Tree House Study Centre Project in Beaulieu.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That a loan be offered to the Countryside Education Trust for up to £30,000, interest free, over a term of ten years;
- (b) That the Head of Communities and Employment make appropriate arrangements to secure the loan in consultation with the Executive Director (Finance) and Head of Legal Services; and
- (c) That officers work with the Trust to develop the community use elements of their business plan.

**39. GOVERNMENT FREE SWIMMING PROGRAMME FOR OVER 60'S AND UNDER 16'S (REPORT D).**

The Chairman, Cllr Kendal, resumed the Chair.

The Cabinet considered the Government's proposal to introduce a free swimming programme to encourage local authorities to provide free swimming for those aged 60 and over and 16 and under.

Members were very supportive of the proposal for a free swimming scheme for customers aged 60+. They agreed that more information was needed on the funding implications for an under 16 free swimming scheme before a final commitment could be made.

Some members commented that groups other than under 16's and over 60's might benefit more from the schemes however, it was agreed that overall any proposal to encourage increased fitness should be supported.

Whilst they agreed that the schemes would encourage more people to participate in exercise, members did express concern that the proposals were not fully funded by the Government on a permanent basis

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) be informed by the required date of 15 September 2008 that this Council confirms its participation in the 60+ free swimming scheme and expresses its interest in the under 16 free swimming scheme;
- (b) That the Council cover any shortfall in the funding for the 60+ scheme;
- (c) That a detailed evaluation of the under 16 scheme be undertaken and subject to the Portfolio Holder's satisfaction the Council then confirm to the DCMS by 16 October 2008 its participation in the scheme;
- (d) That any participation at this stage be on a two year "pilot basis" only pending a decision on future central government funding and a detailed evaluation of the outcomes from any scheme which is implemented; and
- (e) That, whilst fully supporting any proposal that encourages more people to participate in exercise, concern be expressed that this Government proposal is not fully funded on a permanent basis.

**40. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS.****RESOLVED:**

That, under Section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and the Press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act and the public interest in maintaining the exception outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

**41. HYTHE PROMENADE ENVIRONMENT IMPROVEMENT SCHEME – SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE – URGENT DECISION BY AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (REPORT E).**

Cllr Kendal declared a personal interest as the Environment Portfolio Holder at Hampshire County Council. He did not consider his interest to be prejudicial. He remained at the meeting, took part in the discussion and voted.

The Cabinet noted an urgent decision taken by the Executive Director in relation to additional funding required for the Environmental Improvement Scheme at Hythe Promenade.

**RESOLVED:**

That, in accordance with Financial Regulation 2.4, an urgent decision by the Executive Director for a payment of £20,000 to be made to Geoffrey Osborne Limited, the contractor for the Environmental Improvement Scheme at Hythe Promenade, be noted.

CHAIRMAN