

6 MAY 2009

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Wednesday, 6 May 2009.

p Cllr B Rickman (Chairman)
p Cllr E J Heron (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors:

p G C Beck
p Mrs D M Brooks
p Mrs J L Cleary

Councillors:

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

In Attendance:

Councillors:

Ms L C Ford
D Harrison
Mrs A J Hoare
B M F Pemberton

Councillors:

L R Puttock
A J Swain
J G Ward

Also In Attendance:

Mrs W Celea (for Minute Nos 117 – 120), Mrs A Murphy (for Minute No. 121) and Mrs P White, Housing Policy and Report Focus Group Representatives.

Officers Attending:

D Yates, R Jackson, J Mascal, Ms J Bateman, D Brown and Mrs D MacLean.

117. MINUTES.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 1 April 2009, having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

118. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Cllr Beck declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Minute No. 121.

Cllr Ward declared a personal interest in Minute No. 121.

Mrs Celea, Housing Policy and Report Focus Group Representative had an interest in Minute No. 121.

119. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

No issues were raised during the public participation period.

120. DISPOSAL OF LAND AT HOUNSDOWN, TOTTON (REPORT A).

The Cabinet considered the disposal of three parcels of land at Hounsdawn, Totton to Swaythling Housing Society.

Subject to planning consent being granted to develop the sites for affordable housing, the areas of land at The Drive, Powell Crescent and Hounsdawn Avenue, Hounsdawn as shown in Annexes 1, 2 and 3 to Report A to the Cabinet would be transferred to Swaythling Housing Society, from whom the most favourable proposal was received, for £60,000.

The new development would consist of 4 two bedroom bungalows at The Drive, 1 two bedroom house at 33 Hounsdawn Avenue and 1 two bedroom house at Powell Crescent.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the land at The Drive, Powell Crescent and Hounsdawn Avenue, Hounsdawn (as shown in Annexes 1, 2 and 3 to Report A to the Cabinet) be transferred to Swaythling Housing Society, from whom the most favourable proposal was received, for £60,000; and
- (b) That the transfer is subject to planning consent being granted to Swaythling Housing Society to develop the sites for affordable housing.

121. NORTH MILTON ESTATE REFURBISHMENT (REPORT B).

Cllr Beck declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item. He exercised his right to speak and then left the meeting during consideration of this item.

Mrs Celea, Housing Policy and Report Focus Group Representative, had an interest in this item. She left the meeting during consideration of this item.

Cllr Ward declared a personal interest in this item. He did not consider his interest to be prejudicial and he remained at the meeting and spoke on the item. He did not have a vote.

The Cabinet considered a proposal to start design work and carry out refurbishments to the 'non-traditional' properties' on the North Milton Estate, New Milton.

The Crime and Disorder Portfolio Holder, in exercising his right to speak, said that historically there had been problems on the North Milton estate with anti social behaviour. Environmental work that had already been carried out had improved the area considerably and the proposed works would enhance the area further providing an even better and safer environment for residents. He confirmed that the New Milton Town Council fully supported the proposed refurbishment works.

The Housing Portfolio Holder said that she was extremely pleased to bring forward this long awaited major programme of refurbishment, which would give the residents a much higher standard of accommodation and a much more attractive environment. The residents had been kept fully informed of the proposed works.

Mrs White, the Housing Policy and Report Focus Group Representative, confirmed that the residents were completely supportive of the refurbishment proposals which were very much needed on the North Milton estate.

The Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder said that, in partnership with the PCT, a Participatory Needs Assessment had been carried out in the area. Work had been undertaken with all sections of the local community to give an analysis of need in the area. The refurbishment proposals would help to address some of the issues that had been raised and in particular would help people with disability issues. Improvements to surroundings would also help address behaviour problems.

In response to a question, the Cabinet noted that those residents on the North Milton estate who were in leasehold properties would be automatically included within external work contracts. Those in privately owned properties had the option to be included if they wished.

RECOMMENDED:

That the proposal for refurbishment works on the North Milton Estate at a cost of £3m to be funded from current reserves in the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) phased over a period from January 2010 to March 2012 be agreed.

122. STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER (REPORT C).

In February 2009 the Council adopted a new Risk Management Framework and that together with the Council's new Corporate Plan necessitated a review of the corporate business risks to the Council.

The Strategic Risk Register reflected the threats and opportunities to the achievement of the medium to long term objectives of 'Leading our Forest Communities'. Due to the nature of that longer timeframe and the recognition that those risks need to be owned at a corporate level, the Register was structured around the corporate key themes. The more service based aims were captured in the Service Risk Registers.

The Strategic Risk Register would provide a basis of evidence for the work that the Council was doing in a simple and proportionate way.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Strategic Risk Register as attached at Appendix 1 to Report C to the Cabinet be adopted.

123. APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODY.

RESOLVED:

That Cllr Wise be appointed as a Council representative on the South East Employers' Association in place of Cllr Dow.

CHAIRMAN

(DEMOCRAT/CB060509/MINUTES.DOC)