

**2 DECEMBER 2009**

**NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Wednesday, 2 December 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:**

- C J Harrison
- P E Hickman
- L R Puttock
- Mrs A M Rostand

**Councillors:**

- Mrs S I Snowden
- A J Swain
- J G Ward
- P R Woods

**Also In Attendance:**

Mrs P White, Housing Policy and Report Focus Group Representative.

**Officers Attending:**

D Yates, R Jackson, J Mascal, Ms J Bateman, Miss G O'Rourke, C Elliott and C Read.

**47. MINUTES.**

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 4 November 2009, having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**48. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

All members present declared a personal interest in Minute no. 52.

**49. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**

No issues were raised during the public participation period.

**50. COMPREHENSIVE AREA ASSESSMENT.**

The Chairman reported that the Audit Commission was due to release the result of the first round of Comprehensive Area Assessments on 9 December 2009 under the title of 'One Place'. The result would include an organisational assessment of each council, including its use of resources and managing performance scores. NFDC had already received very positive feedback from the Audit Commission but could not publish the report until the agreed date.

The Cabinet therefore agreed that an update on the findings be made to the meeting of the Council on 14 December 2009.

**RESOLVED:**

That an update on the findings of the first round of Comprehensive Area Assessments be made to the Council on 14 December 2009.

**51. ABANDONED SHOPPING TROLLEYS (REPORT A).**

The Cabinet considered proposals to introduce a scale of charges for the collection and return of abandoned shopping trolleys as set out in Schedule 4 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. Those powers gave the Council authority to seize abandoned shopping trolleys and to charge the owners of the shopping trolleys for their return.

The Environment Portfolio Holder emphasised that it was the Council's intention to continue to work with supermarkets and other trolley providers in a constructive manner to ensure that abandoned trolleys did not become a nuisance. The powers proposed were intended to be used only where providers had failed to work with the Council to resolve problems with abandoned trolleys. It was hoped that by adopting those powers the Council would encourage trolley providers to continue to be mindful of their responsibility to deal with abandoned trolleys.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the powers under Schedule 4 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to seize abandoned shopping trolleys be implemented; and
- (b) That the scale of charges for abandoned shopping trolleys as described in Section 5 of Report A to the Cabinet be agreed and reviewed annually as part of the Council's expenditure plan.

**52. THE COUNCIL TAX 2010/2011 – SETTING THE TAX BASE (REPORT B).**

All members present declared a personal interest, where appropriate, as members of Town and Parish Councils. They did not consider their interests to be prejudicial. They took part in the discussion. Members of the Cabinet voted.

The Cabinet considered the detail of the proposed tax base for 2010/11. The Finance and Efficiency Portfolio Holder pointed out that the report formed the basis of the calculations for the council tax for the district for the coming year and gave details of individual town and parish council precepts.

**RESOLVED:**

That, in so far as it is empowered to do so by law, the calculation of the Council Tax Base for the year 2010/11 as set out below be agreed:

- (a) The calculation of the Council's tax base for the year 2010/2011 be approved; and
- (b) Pursuant to this report and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Amendment) Regulations 2003, the amount calculated by this Council as its council tax base for the year 2010/11 be as follows and as detailed in Appendix 1 to Report B to the Cabinet:

<b>PARISH/TOWN</b>	<b>TAX BASE</b>
	<b>10/11</b>
Ashurst & Colbury	926.8
Beaulieu	513.3
Boldre	1048.2
Bramshaw	345.1
Bransgore	1866.6
Breamore	185.0
Brockenhurst	1854.7
Burley	784.0
Copythorne	1235.2
Damerham	239.5
Denny Lodge	158.0
East Boldre	395.3
Ellingham, Harbridge & Ibsley	601.5
Exbury & Lepe	108.2
Fawley	4888.8
Fordingbridge	2386.2
Godshill	219.6
Hale	265.0
Hordle	2468.6
Hyde	511.3
Hythe & Dibden	7818.5
Lymington & Pennington	7201.1
Lyndhurst	1411.0
Marchwood	2127.9
Martin	192.6
Milford on Sea	2757.2
Minstead	362.6
Netley Marsh	832.2
New Milton	10971.9
Ringwood	5481.0

<b>PARISH/TOWN</b>	<b>TAX BASE 10/11</b>
Rockbourne	169.6
Sandleheath	281.7
Sopley	307.7
Sway	1691.7
Totton & Eling	9860.7
Whitsbury	103.1
Woodgreen	254.6
<b>Whole District</b>	<b>72826.0</b>

**53. INCLUSION OF NFDC OWNED STREET LIGHTS IN HCC'S LIGHTING CONTRACT (REPORT C).**

The Cabinet considered revisions to the agreed arrangements for including NFDC's street lights in HCC's Public Finance Initiative (PFI).

The new arrangements would give reduced costs resulting from a combination of lower energy charges, more 'highway' standard lights being transferred to HCC prior to the PFI and agreed transfer of upgraded lighting during the initial replacement phase of the contract.

The inclusion of all NFDC's lights in the PFI would provide better, more cost effective maintenance and energy consumption. Revised arrangements in respect to the Council's 'historic' lights would also allow for their sensitive replacement/refurbishment under the initial replacement phase of the contract.

In order to expedite the process it was also proposed that the Chief Executive be authorised, in consultation with the Planning and Transportation Portfolio holder, to agree any further minor amendments arising from the finalisation of the PFI contract with the Chief Executive being authorised to sign the completed agreement.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the Cabinet approve the alterations to the PFI contract, as set out in section 2 of Report C to them, insofar as they differ from the report and resolutions agreed on 5 November 2008;
- (b) That the Chief Executive be authorised, in consultation with the Planning and Transportation Portfolio Holder, to agree any further minor amendments arising from the finalisation of the PFI contract; and
- (c) That the Chief Executive be authorised to sign the completed agreement.

CHAIRMAN