

3 MARCH 2010

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Wednesday, 3 March 2010.

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
Mrs M E Lewis
Sqn Ldr B M F Pemberton
L R Puttock
Mrs A M Rostand

Councillors:

Mrs S I Snowden
F P Vickers
R A Wappet
J G Ward

Also In Attendance:

Mr M Akerman, Housing Policy and Report Focus Group Representative.

Officers Attending:

D Yates, J Mascall, R Jackson, Ms J Bateman and Miss G O'Rourke and for part of the meeting G Ashworth, C Elliott and C Read.

73. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT.

Following the recent tragedy in Totton where a mother and her child had died, the Chairman expressed the Council's sadness and said that everyone's thoughts were with her family and friends at this difficult time.

74. MINUTES.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2010, having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

75. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Cllr Rickman declared an interest in Minute No 77.
Cllr Mrs Holding declared interests in Minute Nos 77 and 78.
Cllr E J Heron declared interests in Minute Nos 78 and 79
Cllrs Pemberton and Vickers declared interests in Minute No 79

76. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

No issues were raised during the public participation period.

77. NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY CORE STRATEGY AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES (REPORT A).

Cllrs Mrs Holding and Rickman declared personal interests in this item as Council appointed members on the New Forest National Park Authority. They did not consider their interests to be prejudicial. They remained at the meeting and voted.

The Cabinet considered the New Forest National Park Authority Core Strategy and Development Management Policies.

The Planning and Transportation Portfolio Holder said that the revised document was very different from the 2008 consultation document. The Council's previous concerns regarding the proposed Core Strategy had been resolved in the revised document. The Portfolio Holder said that he now fully supported the much improved Core Strategy.

RESOLVED:

That New Forest National Park Authority be informed that the New Forest District Council:

- (i) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the revised National Park Core Strategy and Development Management Policies document;
- (ii) is very pleased that the comments made by New Forest District Council on the previous consultation draft have been taken on board; and
- (iii) supports the revised document.

78. PROJECT INTEGRA ANNUAL ACTION PLAN 2010 - 2015 (REPORT B).

Cllrs E J Heron and Mrs Holding declared personal interests in this item as Council appointed members on the Project Integra Management Board. They did not consider their interests to be prejudicial. They remained at the meeting, took part in the discussion and voted.

The Cabinet considered the draft Project Integra Annual Action plan. The Plan was the mechanism by which the Project Integra Management Board received its mandate to work on behalf of the partnership. The Action Plan also set out the service priorities for the next five years; the financial arrangements and the costs of running the Board and associated joint activities of the partnership.

The Environment Portfolio Holder supported the Business Plan and pointed out that the partnership arrangement did not affect the Council's ability to decide on the frequency and method of the collection service. The Portfolio Holder said that the Council remained committed to a weekly refuse and recycling collection using the black and clear sack method.

Whilst it was pleasing to note that the recent Audit Commission report had highlighted that the current collection methods provided good value for money, regardless of this the Portfolio Holder said that the Council would always put its residents' views first.

The Council currently diverted 89% of its waste away from landfill and Members were very pleased with that high rate. In answer to a question, the Environment Portfolio Holder said that Project Integra was always trying to widen the type of recyclables possible. However, new products would only be included in the recycling stream if there was a proven environmental benefit to them being recycled.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Project Integra Annual Business Plan 2010-2015 be approved.

79. NEW FOREST CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU (CAB) REPRESENTATIVES.

Cllr E J Heron declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item in that his brother, Cllr J D Heron, was proposed as a Council representative. He left the meeting during consideration of this item.

Cllrs Pemberton and Vickers declared personal interests in this item in that they were Council appointed representatives on local CAB's. They did not consider their interests to be prejudicial. They remained at the meeting and took part in the discussion. They did not have a vote.

The Cabinet considered the Council's representation on the revised New Forest Citizens' Advice Bureau. Members noted that the four current CAB's in the New Forest area would be amalgamated into one. The Council would now only be invited to appoint an observer representative and a deputy observer representative who, although not trustees, would be in a position to carefully monitor the use of Council's grant money.

The amalgamation of the CAB's would provide a more efficient and useful service to clients. A number of offices would still operate around the district but would be administered at a central point.

The CAB was a charity and was funded approximately 90% by Council grant. Members agreed that, particularly in the current economic climate, the CAB delivered a much needed service to local residents and was an important organisation to support.

RESOLVED:

That the current Council appointments to all Citizens' Advice Bureaux within the district cease with effect from 31 March 2010 and that Cllr Vickers be appointed as the Council observer representative, with Cllr J D Heron as the deputy, on the revised New Forest Citizens' Advice Bureau with effect from 1 April 2010.

CHAIRMAN

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