

3 NOVEMBER 2010

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

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

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

Councillors:

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

Councillors:

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

In Attendance:

Councillors:

- Ms L C Ford
- Mrs M E Lewis
- B M F Pemberton
- L R Puttock
- A W Rice
- Mrs A M Rostand

Councillors:

- Mrs B Smith
- Mrs S I Snowden
- R A Wappet
- A Weeks
- P R Woods

Also In Attendance:

Mrs A Murphy, Housing Policy and Report Focus Group Representative.

Officers Attending:

D Yates, R Jackson, J Mascall, Ms J Bateman and Miss G O'Rourke and for part of the meeting A Colenutt, S Cook and Ms A Righton.

32. MINUTES.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 1 September 2010 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

33. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Cllr Rice declared an interest in minute No. 36.

34. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

No issues were raised during the public participation period.

35. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT – MR CHARLES CURRY.

The Chairman announced with pleasure that Mr Charles Curry, the owner of the Lymington Times and New Milton Advertiser was celebrating his 90th birthday today. All members sent their very best wishes to Mr Curry on his special day.

36. NORTH SOLENT SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND POOLE AND CHRISTCHURCH BAYS SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN (REPORT A).

Cllr Rice declared a personal interest as Chairman of the North Solent Shoreline Management Plan Member Group. He did not consider his interest to be prejudicial. He remained at the meeting. He did not have a vote.

The Cabinet considered the final North Solent Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) and the final Poole and Christchurch Bays Shoreline Management Plan.

In considering the report the Environment Portfolio Holder thanked Cllrs Mrs Carpenter and Rice for the work they had personally undertaken in assisting with the formulation of the SMP's. He particularly thanked the member and officer team and Desmond Swayne, MP for the representations made to the Secretary of State. That had resulted in new funding of £300,000 being made available for investigation work on problems caused by ground water.

Members noted that whilst a 'No Active Intervention' category meant that public funding would not be available, that did not preclude landowners from continuing to maintain their own defences subject to the normal planning consents where appropriate.

RECOMMENDED:

That the final North Solent Shoreline Management Plan and policies and the Poole and Christchurch Bays Shoreline Management Plan and policies be adopted, subject to obtaining Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) from the Secretary of State in respect of each.

RESOLVED:

That, subject to the agreement of the recommendation above, officers liaise with members and the relevant authorities and organisations to continue to work in partnership to ensure the actions in the Action Plans are monitored and delivered in a cost-effective and timely manner and inform emerging and future studies and schemes.

Action: Andy Colenutt/Steve Cook

37. ELING WHARF AND FORESHORE – CONTAMINATED LAND (REPORT B).

The Cabinet was updated with regard to the current situation and the progress of work on the contaminated land site at Eling Wharf and foreshore.

The Chairman said that he was pleased with the work that was being done and that the level of co-operation between the parties was a credit to all concerned.

Members noted that the foreshore had now been remediated and, subject to a full appraisal, might be reopened to the public in the spring.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That, in view of the fact that Burt Bolton Holdings have carried out extensive remedial works to the foreshore, any decision to formally determine this land as contaminated, be deferred subject to the full appraisal of the validation report of the samples taken from the land following initial remediation and the results of any post remediation monitoring;
- (b) That, in light of the fact that Burt Bolton Holdings have confirmed that they will voluntarily remediate the main site to a Part 2A compliant standard in line with best practice and statutory guidance and progress in that respect is being made through the Working Group and technical discussions, any decision to formally determine the main site as contaminated land at this time be deferred;
- (c) That, without prejudice to the outcome of (a) and (b) above, the District Council continue to work with Burt Bolton Holdings, the Environment Agency and the respective consultants to monitor conditions on the foreshore and monitor progress and discuss the ongoing remediation taking place on the main site; and
- (d) That officers report back to members if they consider significant progress is not being made in respect of the remediation of the main site and that they report back on the actual condition of the foreshore following the full appraisal of the validation report and the results of the post remediation monitoring, so that members can formally consider their options under Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 relating to the determination of contaminated land.

Action: Carole Gallagher

38. TREASURY MANAGEMENT SERVICE AND ACTUAL PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2009/10 – ANNUAL REPORT (REPORT C).

The Cabinet considered the annual report of the Treasury Management Service together with the actual Prudential Indicators for 2009/10. They also considered proposals to amend the Council's Investment Strategy to facilitate better investment opportunities.

The Finance and Efficiency Portfolio Holder said that since the Treasury Strategy for 2010/11 had been agreed the investment situation had changed. It would be beneficial to the Council's investment operation if the Investment Strategy was now amended to expand the counterparty limits. This would enable the Council to mitigate risk whilst maximising income.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the report be noted; and
- (b) That the following amendments be made to the Investment Strategy:-
 - (i) the counterparty limit for Barclays Bank, Lloyds TSB Bank and Nationwide Building Society be increased from £5m to £10m;
 - (ii) whilst retaining the general rule that the maximum that can be invested with any one counterparty at any one time be 20% of the total investment, an exception to be made if the investment is with Barclays Bank, Lloyds TSB Bank and Nationwide Building Society in which case it may be 100% of core funds subject to the £10m counterparty limit;
 - (iii) the limit that can be invested with the Money Market Fund (MMF) and with the Debt Management Office (DMO) be increased from £5m to £10m for each; and
 - (iv) the Church, Charity and Local Authority (CCLA) investment instruments be included in the list of authorised investment counterparties.

Action: Jan Hawker

39. FINANCIAL MONITORING – OUTTURN PROJECTION BASED ON PERFORMANCE TO SEPTEMBER 2010 (REPORT D).

The Cabinet considered the financial performance of the Council for the first six months of 2010/2011 and the potential outturn implications on a portfolio and committee basis.

The Finance and Efficiency Portfolio Holder detailed variations which had resulted in a net improvement of £43,000 in the General Fund Outturn Projection. The only new items of capital expenditure were funded either by developers' contributions or external sources.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the revised outturn forecasts and their potential impact on the authority's revenue and capital budgets as set out in Report D to the Cabinet be noted;
- (b) That the updated Housing Revenue Account budget as set out in Report D to the Cabinet be noted; and
- (c) That the detailed variations as set out in Appendixes 1 and 2 of Report D to the Cabinet be noted.

Action: Alfons Michel

40. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2010 – 2015 (REPORT E).

The Cabinet were updated on the development of the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for 2010/2015 and the annual budget for 2011/2012.

Although the extent and scale of future changes were not known in sufficient detail, the Cabinet had been working with officers since May to prepare for what would become known in the next few months. This work had further developed the Savings and Efficiency Plan. When the grant details were known in December 2010 a detailed draft MTFP and budget for 2011/12 would be produced.

The Deputy Leader thanked the Finance and Efficiency Portfolio Holder for his work on ensuring that the Council was in a sound financial position with prudent reserves. Members also thanked officers for the detailed budget position presentation recently made to the Council which had kept them fully informed of the current situation.

RESOLVED:

That, subject to further details on grant settlements being received a further report on the Draft Medium Term Financial Plan and Annual Budget 2011/12 be made to the January meeting of Cabinet.

Action: Bob Jackson/Kevin Green

CHAIRMAN