

6 APRIL 2011

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Wednesday, 6 April 2011.

- 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 A J Hoare
Mrs M E Lewis
Mrs A E McEvoy
L R Puttock

Councillors:

Mrs A M Rostand
Mrs B Smith
Mrs S I Snowden
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 Mascal, Ms J Bateman and Miss G O'Rourke and for part of the meeting C Elliott, E Gerry and Mrs R Rutins.

72. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman said that as there were no items of business for the Cabinet in May, that meeting would be cancelled and therefore this meeting was the last of the current administration and the last in the current form and structure. The Chairman thanked the Cabinet members for all their help and support over what had been both difficult and interesting times.

In particular, the Chairman paid tribute to Cllr Treleaven who would not be standing at the next election. The Chairman said that Cllr Treleaven's thoroughness and fairness had been a tremendous asset to the Council and he would be very much missed. All members present joined in thanking Cllr Treleaven for his work and wishing him well in the future.

73. MINUTES.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2011 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

74. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Cllrs E J Heron, Mrs Holding, McEvoy, Rickman and Weeks all declared an interest in Minute No. 76.

75. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

No issues were raised during the public participation period.

76. CONSULTATION DOCUMENT: 'HAVING YOUR SAY ON PLANNING FOR HAMPSHIRE'S MINERALS AND WASTE' (REPORT B).

Cllrs E J Heron and Weeks declared personal interests as both Hampshire County Councillors and members of the New Forest National Park Authority. Cllrs Mrs Holding and Rickman declared personal interests as members of the New Forest National Park Authority. Cllr Mrs McEvoy declared a personal interest as a Hampshire County Councillor. None of the members considered their interest to be prejudicial. They all remained at the meeting. Cllrs E J Heron, Mrs Holding and Rickman voted. Cllrs Mrs McEvoy and Weeks did not have a vote.

The Cabinet considered a consultation document jointly published by HCC, Portsmouth and Southampton City Councils and the New Forest and South Downs National Park Authorities. The document set out proposals for the future supply of minerals and waste facilities for the next twenty years and identified sites to help meet local demand for sand and gravel.

The Planning and Transportation Portfolio Holder was pleased to report that sites previously proposed along the coastal strip from Lymington to New Milton had now been excluded. The sites proposed for the Avon Valley were now generally supported, however, whilst raising no objection to the inclusion of Roeshot Hill, Christchurch, the Council was concerned over the possible negative impacts of lorry traffic onto the B3347 and the A35 and associated safety concerns. The Council did object to the inclusion of Forest Lodge Farm, Hythe because of its remoteness from the proposed major development in South Hampshire and traffic congestion in the area. The Cabinet noted that the residents in Hythe welcomed the Council's objection to the Forest Lodge Farm site.

The Planning and Transportation Review Panel at their meeting on 16 March 2011 supported the officer recommendations for all sites but gave stronger emphasis to certain points and additional grounds for objection to some sites as set out in Report A to the Cabinet. The Portfolio Holder thanked the Panel for their comments which would be incorporated into the Council's final response.

RESOLVED:

That the response to Hampshire County Council on the 'Having Your Say on Planning for Hampshire's Minerals and Waste' consultation document based on the recommendations set out in sections 3, 4, 5 and 8 of Report B to the Cabinet, incorporating the comments made by the Planning and Transportation Review Panel, be agreed.

Action: Ed Gerry

77. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2010/11 AND KEY TARGETS 2011/12 (REPORT A).

The Cabinet considered an update on the achievement of Key Targets for 2010/11 and the development of new Key Targets for 2011/12. Individual Portfolio Holders commented on their own specific areas.

Members were pleased to note that of the 68 key targets set for 2010/11, 55 had been achieved, 8 had not been achieved, with the results for a further 5 not yet known or no longer appropriate.

Key targets were usually set during the Portfolio Planning process but in the absence of formulated plans, given the forthcoming elections and any consequential revision to the corporate plan, setting key targets in that way for 2011/12 was not practical or appropriate.

The Cabinet therefore supported a small number of high level corporate and strategic targets for 2011/12 to be developed further around the need to refresh the Corporate Plan and in the short term to achieve savings and protect frontline services.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the achievement against the delivery of key targets for 2010/11 as set out in Appendix 1 be noted; and
- (b) That the key targets for 2011/12 as set out in Appendix 2 be agreed.

Action: Bob Jackson/Beccy Drummond

78. REVIEW OF SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS (REPORT C).

The Cabinet noted a series of recommendations from the Corporate Overview Panel to the Council in relation to the future structure of the Council's Scrutiny arrangements with a view to them being implemented from May 2011.

Members noted that Appendix 1 to Report C to the Cabinet was merely indicative of the issues to be covered and arose from historical descriptions contained in the Council's Constitution. It was only intended to be used as a basis for further development.

The Leader of the Opposition said that whilst there were some elements of the proposals that were sensible he did not support the overall direction for scrutiny. He said that many councillors felt uninvolved in the decision making process and the proposals compounded that situation with even less scope for member involvement. He also felt that any decision on change should be left until the new administration was in place after the local elections.

The Chairman said that it was his responsibility to ensure that proposals were in place to enable the new Council to function effectively.

Members noted that, as with the current scrutiny arrangements, any member would still be able to attend any panel to express a view on any subject of particular interest to them.

RESOLVED

That the recommendations made by the Corporate Overview Panel to the Council on the review of Scrutiny Arrangements be supported.

Action: Rosemary Rutins/Andy Rogers

79. REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES (REPORT D).

The Cabinet considered recommendations from the Polling Districts Working Party as supported by the General Purposes and Licensing Committee.

It was noted that the designation of Polling Districts was a matter for the Council; the designation of Polling Places was a matter for the Cabinet and the designation of Polling Stations a matter for the Returning Officer. In the light of changes to some polling stations there was a need to change some polling places.

RESOLVED:

That, in the light of the review of Polling Districts and Polling Places, and insofar as they are required to do by law, and because of the special circumstances that apply

- (i) EX and BA polling districts be designated as the polling place for EX polling district;
- (ii) BM and NF polling districts be designated as the polling place for BM polling district; and
- (iii) RC and RH polling districts be designated as the polling place for RC polling district.

Action: Rosemary Rutins

CHAIRMAN