

**7 SEPTEMBER 2011**

**NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Wednesday, 7 September 2011.

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

**Councillors:**

p Mrs D M Brooks  
p Mrs J L Cleary

**Councillors:**

p F P Vickers  
p C A Wise

**In Attendance:**

**Councillors:**

Mrs S Bennison  
Ms L C Ford  
C J Harrison  
Mrs A J Hoare  
Mrs M E Lewis  
Sqn Ldr B M F Pemberton

**Councillors:**

J Penwarden  
A W Rice TD  
A J Swain  
R A Wappet  
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 M Devine.

**18. MINUTES.**

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2011, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**19. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

No declarations of interest were made by members in connection with any agenda item.

**20. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**

No issues were raised during the public participation period.

**21. REVIEW OF EMPLOYMENT AND TOURISM: FUTURE PROCUREMENT (REPORT A).**

The Cabinet considered proposals for a review of the Employment and Tourism service as identified in the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan.

The Leader said that employment and tourism was an essential element of the New Forest area and it was important from time to time to review how the service was delivered and to look at future trends.

Members noted that in the current unprecedented economic times it was important to review which core functions were the responsibility of the Council and how the working relationship with the New Forest National Park could be maximised.

**RESOLVED:**

That a review of the Tourism and Employment service be undertaken with the terms of reference and process as set out in Report A to the Cabinet.

Action: Martin Devine

**22. FINANCIAL REPORT – OUTTURN PROJECTION BASED ON PERFORMANCE TO JULY 2011 AND ANNUAL BUDGET TIMETABLE (REPORT B).**

The Cabinet considered the Council's financial performance for the first four months of 2011/12 and the potential outturn implications on a portfolio and committee basis. They also considered a proposed timetable for consideration of the 2012/13 budget.

In discussing the outturn implications the Planning and Transportation Portfolio Holder informed members of the detail of the £250,000 variance relating to car parks. The impact of the increase in VAT earlier in the year meant a shortfall of £50,000 against the car park budget. A revaluation of business rates for car parks had also increased costs by £150,000 and further increases were likely in future years as the benefits of transitional relief was lost.

The Portfolio Holder pointed out that income per head of population from car parking in NFDC was approximately £5 which was considerably lower than neighbouring authorities. Car parking charges had never been used just as a source of income generation. They would shortly be reviewed with a view to new charges being implemented from January 2011, to cover budget shortfalls. New charges would remain very competitive.

The Finance and Efficiency Portfolio Holder drew members' attention to the fact that following the reduction in Government grant in 2010, savings of approximately £2m had been built into the budget and he was pleased to see the Council was on track to deliver them.

The Leader thanked employees for the work done in achieving these substantial savings.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the revised outturn forecasts and their potential impact on the Authority's revenue and capital budgets (paragraphs 3.4 and 4.1 of Report B to the Cabinet) be noted;
- (b) That the updated Housing Revenue Account budget (paragraph 5.1 of Report B to the Cabinet) be noted;
- (c) That the detailed variations reported in Appendix 1 and 2 of Report B to the Cabinet be noted; and
- (d) That the proposals for the 2012/2013 budget timetable as set out in paragraph 6 of Report B to the Cabinet be agreed.

Action: Bob Jackson/Alfons Michel

**23. THE CORPORATE PLAN 2012/16 – DELIVERING FOR OUR COMMUNITIES (REPORT C).**

The Cabinet considered a draft revised Corporate Plan to cover the years 2012 – 2016.

The Leader commented that it was important for the Council's Corporate Plan to be direct and easy to understand and he felt that the new draft Plan achieved this aim.

The Chief Executive said that it was helpful for employees to have a clear statement of intent from members and he felt that the draft revised Corporate Plan would set the tone for the authority for the future.

**RESOLVED:**

That the first draft of the new Corporate Plan be approved as a basis for further consideration by the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

Action: Dave Yates

**24. DELEGATION OF POWERS TO OFFICERS (REPORT D).**

**RESOLVED:**

That the following delegation of power be granted:

Source	Power Delegated	Delegated To
Section 7 Animals Act 1971	Authorised officer to act in matters as specified by the Act to seize and sell animals trespassing on Council land.	Head of Property Services, The Valuer, Head of Housing, Housing Estates Manager.

Action: Stuart Yeo

**25. MEETING DATES FOR THE 2012/13 MUNICIPAL YEAR.**

That the following dates for Cabinet meetings in 2012/13, all Wednesdays at 10.00 a.m., be agreed:-

6 June 2012	5 December 2012
4 July 2012	2 January 2013
1 August 2012	6 February 2013
5 September 2012	6 March 2013
3 October 2012	3 April 2013
7 November 2012	1 May 2013

Action Jane Bateman

CHAIRMAN

(CB070911)