

2 NOVEMBER 2011

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Wednesday, 2 November 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 M Bennison
A T Glass
C J Harrison
Mrs A J Hoare
Mrs M E Lewis

Councillors:

J Penwarden
Mrs A M Rostand
D B Tipp
Mrs C V Ward
P R Woods

Also In Attendance:

Mr M Akerman and Mrs A Murphy, Housing Policy and Report Focus Group Representatives.

Officers Attending:

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

34. MINUTES.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 5 October 2011 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

35. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

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

36. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

No issues were raised during the public participation period.

37. REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES (REPORT A).

On 13 September 2011 the Boundary Commission for England published its initial proposals for the review of Parliamentary Constituencies in the United Kingdom.

The 12 week consultation period on the proposals ended on 5 December 2011 and the Cabinet considered representations that the Council might wish to make regarding the proposed revised boundaries.

Members noted that the Boundary Commission's proposals provided for a New Forest West constituency with only 9 fewer electors than the maximum, while the New Forest East and Romsey constituency would be nearly 4,000 below the maximum.

They agreed that retaining the Lyndhurst District Ward in the New Forest East & Romsey Constituency would improve the electoral equality across the district and provide two constituencies with traditional Forest elements that were more representative of the needs of the area as a whole.

RESOLVED:

That representations be made to the Boundary Commission for the Lyndhurst District Ward (2,392 electors) to form part of the proposed New Forest East and Romsey Parliamentary Constituency on the grounds that improved electoral equality would be achieved across the district with two constituencies that contained traditional Forest elements and were more representative of the area as a whole.

Action: Rosemary Rutins

38. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2011 – 2014 AND 2011/12 BUDGET UPDATE (REPORT B).

The Cabinet considered an update on the progress of the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for 2011 – 2014 together with details of the latest estimated financial outturn position for 2011/12.

Members noted that the Council had taken a targeted approach to the spending review through the Workstreams which had so far achieved savings over and above targets. This had worked well for 2011/12 and would need to continue in future years. For 2012/13 there would be further reductions in grant together with additional unknowns such as the national pay award and council tax proposals. The continued need to identify savings would be addressed through ongoing service reviews and the work of the Task and Finish groups. It was important to note that there were no future funding guarantees to many of the Government's specific grants. For 2013/14 changes to the Local Government Finance system were anticipated which together with business rate changes and welfare reform would mean that the Council had to continue to identify and make further savings.

In considering the latest outturn position members noted that income from car parking continued to be below target. Major changes to the HRA would also mean that the Council would have to pay the Government around £140m. A Task & Finish Group had been set up to review the HRA business plan.

The Finance and Support Portfolio Holder said that a Task & Finish group had been set up to review the budget strategy and its implications and this would give all members the opportunity to comment and contribute to the proposals.

The Portfolio Holder also said that savings targets had been met for the current year and, with the continuation of the Workstream savings proposals 2012/13, the situation was satisfactory. However, for 2013 and beyond it would become very difficult.

The Planning and Transportation Portfolio Holder said that the Government was rewarding those Councils which built houses. In the New Forest the adopted Core Strategy set a limit of 4,000 new dwellings over a 20 year period so it was unlikely that any additional significant Government grant would be forthcoming in this area.

The Leader encouraged all members to participate in the budget formation through the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Panel Budget Task & Finish group as appropriate.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That subject to further details on grant settlements being received a further report be made to the January meeting of Cabinet on the Draft Medium Term Financial Plan 2012/13 to inform the setting of the Council Budget and Council Tax in February; and
- (b) That the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Panel Budget Task and Finish group be invited to review the budget strategy and its implications for the broader community of the New Forest and to make recommendations back for consideration by the Cabinet in February 2012.

Action: Bob Jackson

39. SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND VULNERABLE ADULTS POLICY (REPORT C).

Following a review, the Cabinet considered an updated policy on Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults. The revised policy reflected the latest legislative requirements and set out procedures that clarified the actions that the Council, as a responsible district authority, should take.

The Cabinet were pleased to support the revised policy on this important topic and agreed that members as well as officers should undertake the basic training package in due course.

RESOLVED:

That the Safeguarding Policy as attached at Appendix A to Report C to the Cabinet be agreed, subject to the inclusion of members in the basic training package.

Action: Annie Righton

40. SCHEME OF DELEGATIONS – ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH.

The Cabinet considered amendments and updates to the Officers' Scheme of Delegations.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the reference to the repealed legislation "The Products of Animal Origin (Third Country Imports) (England) Regulations 2006 " and "The Products of Animal Origin (Third Country Imports) (England) Amendment Regulations 2007, 2008, 2009" in the existing scheme of delegation be deleted and replaced with the following:-

Source	Power Delegated	Delegated To
The Trade in Animals and Related Products Regulations 2011	Powers of entry contained within Regulation 33, and powers of authorised officers contained within Regulation 34.	Environmental Health Manager (Commercial), or Senior Environmental Health Officers, or Environmental Health Officers or Environmental Health Technicians

- (b) That the following delegated powers in respect of legislation controlling the use of sunbeds be agreed:

Source	Power Delegated	Delegated To
Sunbeds (Regulation) Act 2010	Powers of entry, and related matters contained within the Schedule to the Act, including inspection, and other matters relating to investigation.	Environmental Health Manager (Commercial), or Senior Environmental Health Officers, or Environmental Health Officers or Environmental Health Technicians

Action: Stephen Stone/Jan Debnam

41. OUTSIDE BODY APPOINTMENT.**RESOLVED :**

That Cllr Glass be appointed to the New Forest Environmental Protection Liaison Committee in place of Cllr Woods.

Action: Jan Debnam

CHAIRMAN