

**5 SEPTEMBER 2012**

**NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on 5 September 2012.

- 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 D E Andrews  
Mrs S V Beeton  
Mrs S Bennison  
S Clarke  
Ms L C Ford  
A T Glass  
C J Harrison  
Mrs A J Hoare

**Councillors:**

J Penwarden  
L R Puttock  
A W Rice TD  
A J Swain  
Mrs C Ward  
R A Wappet  
P R Woods

**Also In Attendance:**

Mr G Walters - Housing Policy and Report Focus Group Representative.

**Officers Attending:**

D Yates, R Jackson, J Mascal, Miss J Debnam, C Elliott and Miss G O'Rourke

**16. MS FRANCOISE BENNETT**

The Chairman was pleased to welcome Françoise Bennett, a Politics student studying at Brockenhurst College, to the meeting. Françoise would be visiting the Council for 3 days, finding out about the functions of the Council and of councillors.

**17. MINUTES.**

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 1 August 2012 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**18. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

Cllrs Rickman, E J Heron and Rice disclosed interests in Minute 22, relating to the Tree Service, as members of the New Forest National Park Authority.

**19. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**

No issues were raised during the public participation period.

**20. FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT – FORECAST OUTTURN BASED ON PERFORMANCE TO JULY 2012 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2013/14 (REPORT A).**

The Cabinet was advised that there had been new positive net variations of £471,000 against the general fund budget for 2012/13, with the projected outturn now £19.241m. Full details of the individual variations were set out in the report.

A bid had been submitted for central government funding to allow the introduction of the kerbside collection of glass for recycling. If this bid was successful, the revenue cost of maintaining the service would need to be included in the medium term financial plan for 2015/16 onwards. Details of the bid and its long term implications were set out in Appendix C to Report A.

There had been significant changes to the Capital Programmes, both the general fund and the Housing Revenue Account, increasing the budget to £23.093m. The most significant change arose from the investment of £6m in affordable housing, and a total of £796,000 of developers' contributions had also been allocated to schemes. Details of all the main variations were set out in the report.

The Cabinet considered that it was necessary to provide additional accommodation at the Totton Health and Leisure Centre to compensate for the loss of the use of the Refectory area. The Asset Management Group had examined the business case for providing a replacement hall on the ground floor, together with other changes at the building, and was satisfied that the investment was justified to protect income. Details of the proposal were set out in Appendix B(1) to Report A.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the revised outturn forecasts and their potential impact on the Authority's revenue budget, as set out in paragraph 3.2 of Report A to the Cabinet and capital budget, as set out in paragraph 4.1 of Report A to the Cabinet, be noted; and
- (b) That the detailed variations reported in Appendices A and B to Report A to the Cabinet be noted;

**RECOMMENDED:**

- (c) *That the bid for funding for a scheme for the weekly kerbside collection of glass be supported and that budgetary provision be identified in the Medium Term Financial Plan 2015/16 and beyond, as set out in Appendix C to Report A to the Cabinet.*

- (d) *That there be capital investment of £152,000 at Totton Health and Leisure centre, necessitated by the loss of the use of the refectory facilities, as set out in Appendix B(1) to Report A to the Cabinet.*

Action: Bob Jackson

**21. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2012 ONWARDS/ANNUAL BUDGET 2013/14 (REPORT B).**

The Cabinet was advised that the funding arrangements for local authorities were changing from 2013/14 with approximately 50% of the support from Government being drawn from Business Rates and 50% from Government formula funding. The situation was further complicated by the localisation of Council Tax support, with consequent effects on the Council tax base. The Cabinet was advised of the work underway to prepare for these changes. Since the publication of this report however the Government had announced changes to the operation of the localisation of Council Tax, now referred to as the Council Tax Reduction Scheme. The implications of these changes for this Council and other precepting bodies were still unknown, which made it difficult to progress important financial planning. The public consultation on the proposed local Council Tax Reduction Scheme was however continuing, as the purpose was to seek the views of other organisations and individuals, to be taken into account when the scheme was finalised.

Although the Comprehensive Spending Review 2010 had suggested that this Council would face a cut of funding of 0.4% next year, current indications were that a reduction in funding of between 12% and 18% was possible, and the Cabinet was advised of 3 financial projections that had been developed to take account of cuts of funding in this range. The Cabinet was also advised of the timetable for the preparation of the budget for 2013/14.

**RESOLVED:**

That the latest position of the Council's medium term financial plan and early indications of issues affecting the budget for 2013/14 be noted.

Action: Bob Jackson

**22. TREE SERVICE (REPORT C).**

Cllrs Rickman, E J Heron and Rice disclosed pecuniary interests in the financial affairs of the New Forest National Park Authority as they were Members of that body. Cllr Rickman made a statement in support of the proposal, and then abstained from the consideration and voting. Cllr Rice abstained from the debate and did not have a vote. Cllr E J Heron asked that it be recorded that he abstained from voting on this item and did not take part in the debate.

Cllr Wise (Finance and Efficiency Portfolio Holder) in the Chair

The Cabinet considered entering into a Service Level Agreement for the New Forest National Park Authority to provide the Council's functions with respect to trees. The Council's tree officers would be transferred to the National Park Authority under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006. Members noted that the same level of service would be

provided to the public, while achieving savings of £25,000 per annum, against a budget of £120,000 per annum, through the proposed partnership arrangements.

Members welcomed the proposal that this Council's Appeals Panel would continue to determine those instances where there were unresolved objections to the making of a tree preservation order on trees in the District Council's area.

**RECOMMENDED:**

- (a) ***That the Council enter into an agreement under S101 of the Local Government Act 1972 to enable the New Forest National Park Authority to discharge the Council's tree function, in the terms outlined in Appendix 1 to Report C to the Cabinet***
- (b) ***That the Head of Planning and Transportation be authorised, in consultation with the Planning and Transportation Portfolio Holder, to finalise the terms of the aforementioned agreement, the financial provisions and the terms under which the National Park Authority will be discharging the Council's functions in respect of tree matters.***

Action: Chris Elliott

**23. MEETING DATES FOR THE 2013/14 MUNICIPAL YEAR.**

**RESOLVED:**

That the following dates for Cabinet meetings in 2013/14, Wednesdays at 10.00 a.m., be agreed:-

5 June 2013	4 December 2013
3 July 2013	2 January 2014 (THURSDAY)
7 August 2013	5 February 2014
4 September 2013	5 March 2014
2 October 2013	2 April 2014
6 November 2013	7 May 2014

CHAIRMAN

(CB050912)