

5 JUNE 2013

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Wednesday, 5 June 2013.

p Cllr B Rickman (Chairman)
ap 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

Councillors:

Mrs D E Andrews
Mrs S Bennison
S Clarke
A T Glass
C J Harrison
Mrs A J Hoare
Mrs P Jackman

Councillors:

A N G Kilgour
Mrs M E Lewis
J Penwarden
L R Puttock
A W Rice
A J Swain
Mrs C Ward

Also In Attendance:

Mr G Waters, Housing Policy and Report Focus Group Representative.

Officers Attending:

D Yates, R Jackson, J Mascall, Miss J Debnam, J Rickard, Ms A Righton, Mrs R Rutins and Miss G O'Rourke.

1. MINUTES.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 April 2013 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest made by any member in connection with an agenda item.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

No issues were raised during the public participation period.

4. ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AND PROVISIONAL BUDGET OUTTURN REPORT 2012/13 (REPORT A).

The Cabinet received an overview of the Council's performance during 2012/13. Although service delivery had been set within the context of continuing financial constraints, with the 2012/13 budget reduced by 4% compared to 2011/12, there had been significant achievements. The medium term financial plan had achieved savings of nearly £1.8 million in 2012/13. This had allowed Council tax to be frozen for the fourth year in succession, while maintaining services and also allowing employees to receive a 1% pay increase.

The provisional outturn figure for the Housing Revenue Account also showed an improvement with the planned deficit for the year being reduced to £230,000 from £778,000. The Capital Programme forecast outturn expenditure, at £19.91 million had also achieved savings of £150,000, principally from office optimisation.

The organisational indicators suggested that the Council was performing well and on target.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the performance and achievements of the Council in 2012/13, as set out within the Annual Performance Report, be noted;
- (b) That the provisional General Fund outturn position be noted;
- (c) That the provisional outturn position of the Capital Programme be noted; and
- (d) That the provisional outturn position of the Housing Revenue Account be noted.

5. SERVICE REVIEW PROGRAMME 2013 ONWARDS (REPORT B).

The Cabinet considered a programme of further service reviews, in support of the objective, under the Medium Term Financial Plan, of bridging the funding gap anticipated in the period up to 2015/16.

RESOLVED:

That the programme of service reviews set out in Appendix A to Report B to the Cabinet, be approved.

Action: Heads of Service/EMT

6. SENIOR MANAGEMENT REVIEW PHASE 3 (REPORT C).

Mr J Mascal, Executive Director, withdrew from the meeting for the consideration of this item.

The Cabinet recalled that reviews of the senior management structure in 2011 and 2012 had adjusted the EMT/Heads of Service structure that had been introduced in 2007/8 to respond to the changing needs of the Council. It had been recognised that a further review would be necessary in due course, but that any further changes must maintain the capacity of senior management to take the authority forward at a time when there was an increased need for innovation and resilience.

The Cabinet supported the further amendment of the current structure by allowing the Head of Housing and one of the Executive Directors to reduce their hours from 37 to 22.5 hours per week, under the flexible retirement arrangements, with the Executive Director retiring within the next 2 years and the Head of Housing within the next year. Further reports on the longer term arrangements to respond to these retirements would be brought to the Cabinet in due course.

RESOLVED:

That the proposed changes to the senior management structure set out in Report C to the Cabinet, to include the flexible retirement of an Executive Director and the Head of Housing, be approved.

Action: EMT

7. HAMPSHIRE JOINT HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY (REPORT D).

The Cabinet was advised of the progress being made in producing the Hampshire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, which was required under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. There had been an extensive consultation and collaboration exercise leading to the preparation of the current document, which represented a shared plan of action for key partners involved in promoting and delivering health and wellbeing. The over-arching Strategy would feed through into the activities of the well-established and effective New Forest Health and Wellbeing Board, which would reflect more local priorities in its programme of action.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the progress made to date in developing the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Hampshire be noted; and
- (b) That Hampshire's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013-2018, as set out in Appendix A to Report D to the Cabinet, be endorsed so that it can progress to adoption by the Hampshire Health and Wellbeing Board at their inaugural meeting in the Summer 2013.

Action: Annie Righton

8. LYMINGTON HEALTH AND LEISURE – CAR PARK EXTENSION (REPORT E).

The Cabinet was advised that the opportunity had arisen to secure an increase in the car parking provision at Lyminster Health and Leisure Centre, in association with amendments to the campus being promoted by the school. The lack of adequate car parking was a recognised problem on this site, and could prejudice the future development of the Centre's business. The proposal represented excellent value for money for this Council, with the majority of the cost being met by the School.

RESOLVED:

That a supplementary estimate of £40,000, as this Council's contribution towards the cost of work to extend the car park at Lyminster Health and Leisure Centre, costing £159,000 in total, be approved.

Action: Jeremy Rickard

9. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL (REPORT F).

The Cabinet considered arrangements for the review of the allowances paid to Councillors, as required under the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the recommendations for the continuation or replacement of Panel members set out in paragraph 3 of Report F to the Cabinet, together with the suggested Terms of Reference of the Panel at paragraph 4; be approved;
- (b) That the period of appointment of the Independent Review Panel members be four years from the date they first sit; and
- (c) That the officers write to parish and town councils to inform them of the review and to request them to indicate whether or not they wish to participate in the review.

Action: Andy Rogers/Rosemary Rutins

10. DELEGATION OF POWERS TO OFFICERS.**RESOLVED:**

That the following amendments to the scheme of delegation of powers to officers, in respect of Executive functions, be approved:

- (i) The deletion of those delegations of powers to officers where operational, administrative or legislative changes make the delegation redundant; and

- (ii) That where it does not already specify, it be agreed that each delegation also includes any subsequent amendments and re-enactments of legislation in respect of the original delegation already authorised

Action: Jan Debnam

CHAIRMAN

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