

2 OCTOBER 2013

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Wednesday, 2 October 2013.

- 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:

- G C Beck
- Mrs S Bennison
- A T Glass
- C J Harrison
- Mrs P Jackman

Councillors:

- Mrs M E Lewis
- Mrs A M Rostand
- A J Swain
- Mrs C Ward
- P R Woods

Officers Attending:

D Yates, R Jackson, Miss J Debnam and Miss G O'Rourke.

30. MINUTES.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 4 September 2013 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

31. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

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

32. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

No issues were raised during the public participation period.

33. BUDGET UPDATE ON DISCRETIONARY GRANT PAID TO TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS (REPORT A)

The Cabinet recalled that in April 2013 the Council had introduced a discretionary grant to town and parish councils to compensate for the loss of income to them following changes to the national funding of Council Tax benefits.

The Cabinet reviewed the discretionary grant paid to town and parish councils in the light of continuing reductions in government funding to this authority. Members considered that it was important to establish a clear basis for full and early consultation with all councils affected.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That within the draft Medium Term Financial Plan the following provision be made for the Discretionary Grant for Town and Parish Councils:

2014/15 budget - £300,000

2015/16 budget - £200,000

2016/17 budget - £100,000

- (b) That Town and Parish Councils be advised of this position and their comments requested, enabling feedback to the Cabinet in December, prior to a recommendation to the Council.

Action: Bob Jackson/Kevin Green

34. GENERAL FUNDING STRATEGY – FIXED ASSETS, EQUIPMENT AND THIRD PARTY CONTRIBUTIONS (REPORT B)

The Cabinet considered the revenue funding that should be made available to support investment in fixed assets, equipment and in the delivery of services by third parties during the period of the Medium Term Financial Plan. A summary of the areas of expenditure supported by this funding was attached as Appendix 1 to Report B to the Cabinet. In order to avoid external borrowing it was proposed to reduce funding commitments in recognition of reductions in the amount of funding available through the General Fund.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Medium Term Financial Plan be developed on the basis of the commitments identified in section 4 of Report B to the Cabinet; and
- (b) That work continue on the development of a 3 to 5 year programme, as a minimum, of asset investment needs and that this programme be presented to the Cabinet during the budget setting cycle.

Action: Bob Jackson

35. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2013 TO 2017 (REPORT C)

The Cabinet was advised of progress in developing the Medium Term Financial Plan for the period 2013 to 2017. A draft resources plan had been prepared for each portfolio, which identified the aims, performance requirements and challenges being faced, together with proposals to achieve the consequent delivery of the Corporate Plan. The resources plans formed the foundation for planning the resources, and consequently the budget, needed. Members were advised of forecast changes to the funding available during the next 3 years.

RESOLVED:

That the emerging draft Medium Term Financial 2013 to 2017, as set out within Report C to the Cabinet, and the principles on which its being developed, be approved.

Action: Bob Jackson

36. PUSH – CONSTITUTION AND DELEGATION ARRANGEMENTS (PAPER D)

Following the decision that the Council should re-join the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) (Cabinet minute 28, 4 September 2013 and Council minute 23, 9 September 2013 refer), the Cabinet considered the Agreement for membership, as set out as Appendix 1 to Report D to the Cabinet.

RESOLVED:

That the Chief Executive be authorised to sign the PUSH Agreement, attached as Appendix 1 to Report D to the Cabinet, on behalf of the Council.

Action: Dave Yates

37. NEW FOREST INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATION LTD.**RESOLVED:**

That Cllr Wise be appointed to serve on the New Forest Industrial Association Ltd (now called the New Forest Enterprise Centre) in the place of Cllr Scrivens.

Action: Jan Debnam

CHAIRMAN