

2 JANUARY 2014

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Thursday, 2 January 2014.

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 Bennison
S Clarke
Mrs L C Ford
A T Glass
C J Harrison
Mrs A J Hoare
A N G Kilgour
J Penwarden

Councillors:

L R Puttock
A W Rice
W S Rippon-Swaine
Mrs A M Rostand
D B Tipp
R A Wappet
J G Ward
P R Woods

Also In Attendance:

Mr M Ackerman, Housing Policy and Report Focus Group Representative
Cllrs I Monks and S Tong, East Dorset District Council

Officers Attending:

D Yates, R Jackson, Miss J Debnam, Miss G O'Rourke, Mrs R Rutins,
Mrs M Sandhu and S Stone

49. ENVIRONMENT SERVICES AND PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

The Chairman referred to the excellent quality of service that had been delivered by the employees in Environment Services during the challenging weather conditions over the Christmas and New Year period, and asked that the Cabinet's thanks be conveyed to the employees involved.

The Chairman also thanked all the other partner agencies that had worked with this Council to respond to the various problems that had been created by the recent very poor weather conditions,

50. EAST DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Chairman was pleased to welcome Cllr Ian Monks and Cllr Simon Tong, the Leader and Deputy Leader of East Dorset District Council, to the meeting of the Cabinet. In addition to reducing their number of Councillors, East Dorset was considering changing from their current Committee system to the Cabinet model of governance.

51. MINUTES.**RESOLVED:**

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

52. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

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

53. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

No issues were raised during the public participation period.

54. WORKFORCE STRATEGY 2014-2016 (REPORT A).

The Cabinet considered the Workforce Strategy for the period 2014-16. The draft Strategy had already been subject to widespread discussion throughout the Council and took account of the findings of a recent employee survey.

Six main themes had been identified to guide the Strategy and these would be implemented through high level action plans. Progress would be monitored on an annual basis by the Executive Management Team.

RESOLVED:

That the Workforce Strategy 2014 -2016, as attached as Appendix 1 to Report A considered by the Cabinet, be approved.

Action: Manjit Sandhu

55. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES 2014/15 – 2017/18 (REPORT B).

Further to minute 9 (5 June 2013), the Cabinet received the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel that was appointed in accordance with the Local Government (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 to review the allowances to be paid with effect from 1 April 2014. While the overall scheme remained fit for purpose, the Panel had recommended a number of adjustments, the net effect of which was to reduce the overall cost by at least £6,737 per annum.

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) *That, in the light of the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel, the following changes be made to the Members' Allowances Scheme with effect from 1 April 2014:*
- i. That the Basic Allowance for all members be reduced to £5897 per annum to take account of a reduction in the annual payment for the provision and support of ICT equipment;*
 - ii. That the Special Responsibility Allowance payable to the Chairman of the General Purposes and Licensing Committee be increased to £1,926;*
 - iii. That if the Major Opposition Group has less than 6 Members (10% of the Council Membership), then the Special Responsibility Allowance payable to their Leader be reduced by 25% to £5,286;*
 - iv. That if the Major Opposition Group reaches 12 Members (20% of the Council membership), the Deputy Leader of that Group be paid a Special Responsibility Allowance of £1,000;*
 - v. That the Special Responsibility Allowance payable to the Leader of the Minority Opposition Group be reduced to £1,000;*
 - vi. That if there are two or more opposition groups of equal size, then the sum of the Special Responsibility Allowances that would be payable to Opposition Group Leaders of differing sizes be divided equally between the Opposition Group Leaders;*
 - vii. That the payment of a Special Responsibility Allowance to Shadow Portfolio Holders be discontinued;*
 - viii. That it be confirmed that the Chairmen of the Scrutiny Task and Finish Working Groups will not be paid any Special Responsibility Allowance;*
 - ix. That it be confirmed that no Member may receive more than one Special Responsibility Allowance;*
 - x. That the maximum rate for the childcare element of the Dependants' Carers' Allowance be increased to £7.45 per hour;*
 - xi. That the maximum Dependants' Carers' Allowance childcare element be indexed to the living wage hourly rate (outside of London); and that the elderly or other dependent relatives' element continue to be indexed to the annual percentage salary increase for local government staff (at spinal column 28), both to be applied from the same date that indexation applies to staff;*
 - xii. That it be confirmed that the Basic Allowance (including ICT element) and Special Responsibility Allowances be indexed to the national annual percentage salary increase for local government staff (at spinal column 28), to be applied from the same date applicable to employees;*

xiii. That it be confirmed that mileage rates continue to be indexed to the HMRC approved mileage rates for motor vehicles, motor cycles and bicycles; and

(b) That, subject to the inclusion of the above amendments, the Council makes its Scheme of Members' Allowances with effect from 1 April 2014.

56. FOOD SAFETY AND HYGIENE REGULATIONS – DELEGATION OF POWERS (REPORT C).

The Cabinet considered revisions to the current scheme of delegation of powers to officers in the light of changes to legislation, particularly with respect to food safety.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the officers be delegated the powers set out in paragraph 3.1 of Report C considered by the Cabinet; and
- (b) That the delegations with reference numbers ENV 57-68 inclusive, ENV 70, ENV 72, ENV 72-74 inclusive and ENV 83 be deleted from the current scheme of delegation of powers to officers.

Action: Jan Debnam and Stephen Stone

CHAIRMAN