

5 MARCH 2014

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Wednesday, 5 March 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
G C Beck
Mrs S Bennison
S Clarke
Ms L C Ford
A T Glass
Mrs A J Hoare

Councillors:

Mrs P Jackman
Mrs M E Lewis
W S Rippon-Swaine
A J Swain
Mrs C Ward
P R Woods

Also In Attendance:

Mr M Akerman, Housing Policy and Report Focus Group Representative

Officers Attending:

D Yates, R Jackson, Miss J Debnam, Mrs P Lewis, G Miles, Miss G O'Rourke and Mrs R Rutins.

66. MINUTES.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2014 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

67. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

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

68. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

No issues were raised during the public participation period.

69. INTRODUCTION OF “INTRODUCTORY TENANCIES” (REPORT A).

The Cabinet considered the merits of using “introductory tenancies” for new tenants from the housing waiting list who were being allocated Council properties. Introductory tenancies would allow the tenancy to be pro-actively managed in the early stages, with a view to educating and supporting the new tenants so that they were successful in sustaining a tenancy. This form of tenancy also made it easier for the Council to regain possession of the property, as a measure of last resort, if there were persistent, unresolved problems with, for example, anti-social behaviour or rent arrears. The introductory tenancy would automatically become a fixed term tenancy after 12 months, unless the introductory period was formally extended for a further 6 months trial period, or the Council had regained possession of the property. The Cabinet was advised that powers would need to be delegated to the officers to allow them to serve the requisite notices and to operate the appeals processes associated with introductory tenancies.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That Introductory Tenancies be introduced with effect on 1 April 2014; and
- (b) That the following addition be made to the Scheme of Delegation of Powers to Officers, to allow the efficient operation of the Introductory Tenancy processes:

Source	Power Delegated	Delegated to
Housing Act 1996	To take all necessary action with respect to Introductory Tenancies including the service of notices, the making of determinations, the holding of reviews and the seeking of possession.	Head of Housing and Customer Services, Landlord Services Manager, or Strategic Services Manager, Housing Estates Manager, Rent & Arrears Recovery Manager, Neighbourhood & Tenancy Management Officers, Rent & Arrears Recovery Officers

70. REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES (REPORT B).

The Cabinet was advised that, all electoral registration authorities had been required to undertake a review of their polling districts and polling places earlier than had been originally anticipated. The General Purposes and Licensing Committee had established a task and finish group to oversee the review. Following extensive research the task and finish working group’s recommendations relative to polling places were considered by the Cabinet. Other issues arising from

the review were considered by the General Purposes and Licensing Committee at their meeting on 7 March 2014.

By law, a polling station (the building where polling took place) must be within a polling district (a geographical sub-division of an electoral area, such as a parliamentary constituency or a district ward) and within a polling place, unless special circumstances applied. To allow the Returning Officer flexibility to use the most suitable available premises it was agreed that the Council should continue with the previous practice of designating the whole of each polling district as the polling place.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the polling places for each polling district be designated as the whole of the polling district, except where special circumstances apply; and
- (b) That the polling places as set out in Appendix 1 to Report B to the Cabinet be agreed.

CHAIRMAN