

**3 SEPTEMBER 2014**

**NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Wednesday, 3 September 2014.

p Cllr B Rickman (Chairman)  
p Cllr E J Heron (Vice-Chairman)

**Councillors:**

ap Mrs D M Brooks  
p Mrs J L Cleary

**Councillors:**

p F P Vickers  
p C A Wise

**In Attendance:**

**Councillors:**

Mrs S Bennison  
A T Glass  
C J Harrison  
Mrs A J Hoare  
Mrs M E Lewis  
Mrs A E McEvoy

**Councillors:**

J Penwarden  
A W Rice  
W S Rippon-Swaine  
Mrs A M Rostand  
Mrs C Ward  
P R Woods

**Officers Attending:**

D Yates, R Jackson, J Mascall, Miss J Debnam, A Harris, Ms D Lucas, Mrs D Miller, Miss G O'Rourke, C Read and Mrs R Rutins.

**21. MINUTES.**

Further to minute 19, relating to the beach huts at Westover, Milford on Sea, the Leader advised Members that the officers had met with Halcrow, the company that had provided the draft design and costings for replacing the huts, and had identified a draft programme for the way forward. Discussions were continuing on the procurement options. If the recommendation set out in minute 19 was approved by the Council at its meeting on 8 September a project board would be established within 10 working days.

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 August 2014 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**22. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

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

**23. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**

No issues were raised during the public participation period.

**24. APPELMORE HEALTH AND LEISURE CENTRE.**

The Leader advised Members that the new gym equipment had been installed successfully at Applemore Health and Leisure Centre and was attracting many positive comments from customers. All of the new cardiovascular equipment was state of the art, with touch screens and integrated internet connections that customers could use to browse the web, watch TV or access social media while exercising; and synchronise their workouts with their smartphone. Other members remarked on the high quality of the new equipment and praised the way in which the centre staff had handled the change.

Unfortunately there was a delay in re-opening the swimming pools as a number of issues had arisen during the course of works. The Council was working closely with the contractors to resolve the outstanding issues and on current information it was expected that the pools would re-open at the end of October. In the meantime, customers' patience with the delay was much appreciated. The focus of the Council was on bringing the pools back into use as soon as possible. At the appropriate time there would be a full review that would involve the Members from the Waterside.

**25. RECORDING OF MEETINGS (REPORT A).**

In the light of the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, that allowed all members of the public to record meetings of the Council, Members considered whether the Council should itself record its meetings.

**RECOMMENDED:**

- (a) *That meetings of the Council, the Cabinet and the Planning Development Control Committee held in the Council Chamber be recorded and that expenditure of approximately £7,000 be authorised for this purpose; and***
- (b) *That further consideration be given at a later stage to webcasting meetings, and to recording meetings which the public are entitled to attend in other meeting rooms at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst.***

Action: Rosemary Rutins/ Fiona Hughes

**26. NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2014-16 (REPORT B).**

The Cabinet considered an updated Waste Management Strategy, to cover the period 2014-16, which set new aims and objectives for the forthcoming period. This Strategy would have a shorter period of operation than previously to allow it to be aligned with the Corporate Plan. The Strategy now proposed linked to the current Corporate Plan "Delivering for our Communities", which covered the period to 2016.

The Cabinet noted that many of the short and medium term actions that had been set out in the Strategy for the period 2009-2013 had been achieved and formed the basis for updated actions within the proposed Strategy.

**RECOMMENDED:**

***That the revised New Forest District Council Waste Management Strategy 2014 – 2016, as attached as Appendix 1 to Report B to the Cabinet, be approved and adopted.***

**27. DEPOTS REVIEW PROPOSAL (REPORT C).**

The Cabinet was advised that, following a detailed review of the Council's depots, it had been concluded that there were significant operational difficulties associated with the Claymeadow, Totton and Marsh Lane, Lymington sites. Consequently, a new site was needed in the Totton area. While an alternative site was one solution to the difficulties at Marsh Lane, as an alternative, the Building Works, Central Purchasing and Stores functions could be relocated to bring the occupancy levels at that site down to acceptable levels. No change was proposed for the depot at Christchurch Road, Ringwood.

Contact had been made with local commercial land and property agents to seek premises to meet the Council's requirements. Once a suitable site, that met the Council's needs, had been identified application would need to be made to the Traffic Commissioner for an operator's licence. The successful outcome of such an application was a pre-requisite to a site's acquisition.

The Cabinet was satisfied that, in order to be able to respond flexibly to secure a suitable site, powers should be delegated to the officers, in consultation with the Environment and Finance and Efficiency Portfolio Holders, to allow them to progress this project.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Officers continue to work to identify suitable depot sites in the areas of Totton and Lymington.

Action: Geoff Bettle/Colin Read/ Bob Jackson

**RECOMMENDED:**

- (a) *That delegated authority be given to the two Executive Directors, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and the Head of Property Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Efficiency to acquire land suitable for a Depot Site (in the region of 2 or 3 acres) should it become available on terms acceptable to the Council; and***

- (b) *That a budget of £50,000 be approved to progress the development of any identified site to enable an outline plan to be developed enabling an application to be made to the Traffic Commissioner. Any application made to be subject to prior consultation by the two Executive Directors with the Environment and Finance and Efficiency Portfolio Holders.*
28. **FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT – FORECAST OUTTURN (BASED ON PERFORMANCE TO JULY 2014) (REPORT D).**

The Cabinet was advised of key variations to the General Fund and Capital budgets that had been identified since June 2014. The projected outturn on the General fund had reduced by a net figure of £55,000, to £18.649 million. Full details of the variations were set out in paragraph 3.3 of Report D to the Cabinet. The Cabinet welcomed increases to the projected income from the Council's cemeteries and from land charges searches. The Cabinet was advised that the Asset Management Group had identified a number of changes that needed to be made to their projects, but that the costs could be met through virements within existing budgets. Additional expenditure was proposed to transfer administration of the National Non-Domestic Rates onto a system run by Northgate ICT who provided the Council's Council Tax and Benefits system. This would generate savings of around £20,000 per annum.

The Capital programme was now estimated at £20.551 million, a reduction of £2.681 million since June. Full details of these variations were set out in paragraph 4.2 of Report D to the Cabinet.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That funding of £48,000 be approved to allow additional document scanning into Meridio;
- (b) That a budget virement across Portfolios be approved to enable the delivery of additional Asset Management Group projects, the costs of which are offset within the overall Asset Management Group's programme; and
- (c) That the revised outturn forecasts for the General Fund (as set out in paragraph 3.2 of Report D to the Cabinet) and for Capital expenditure (paragraph 4.1 of Report D to the Cabinet) be noted.

Action: Bob Jackson/Kevin Green

**RECOMMENDED:**

*That funding of £79,000 (£62,000 in 2014/15 and £17,000 in 2016/17) be approved to finance a change in the computer system used to administer National Non-Domestic Rates to that offered by Northgate ICT.*

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

That in paragraph (i) of delegation Hsg & Com 32 the reference to "10 year" be deleted, as follows:

<b>Source</b>	<b>Power delegated</b>	<b>Delegated to</b>
Housing Act 1985 Part V	To decide on all offers to re-convey properties to the Council:- (i) Where the owners are required to offer the property under a <del>10-year</del> pre-emption covenant or where the owners are having difficulty selling privately and there is a clear need for the property, the price to be paid for each property to be no more than the current market value with vacant possession as assessed by the Valuer.	Head of Housing and Customer Services, or Strategic Housing Services Manager, or Performance and Asset Manager

CHAIRMAN

(CB030914)