

4 MARCH 2015

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Wednesday, 4 March 2015.

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
Ms L C Ford
A T Glass
C J Harrison
Mrs A J Hoare
Mrs M E Lewis
J Penwarden

Councillors:

L R Puttock
A W Rice
W S Rippon-Swaine
A J Swain
Mrs C Ward
J G Ward
J G Ward
P R Woods

Also In Attendance:

Cllr Mrs L Clark and Cllr Mrs B Manual, East Dorset District Council

Officers Attending:

D Yates, R Jackson, J Mascall, Miss J Debnam, C Elliott, G Bettle, A Herring, G Miles, Miss G O'Rourke, and A Phipps

62. MINUTES.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2015 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

63. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

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

64. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

No issues were raised during the public participation period.

65. ADOPTION OF REVISED STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (REPORT A).

The Cabinet considered a revised Statement of Community Involvement to guide this Council's consultations and the involvement of others in planning matters for that area of the District outside the National Park. The Statement that had been produced in 2006 had been updated to take account of changes in planning legislation. The draft Statement had been subject to statutory consultations, and the comments received were considered by the Cabinet. Members considered that the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service should be added to the list of those bodies that should be consulted.

RESOLVED:

That insofar as it is empowered to do so by law, the Cabinet approves and adopts the revised Statement of Community Involvement as attached at Appendix 1 to Report A to the Cabinet, subject to the inclusion of the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service in the list of those bodies that should be consulted.

Action: Andrew Herring

RECOMMENDED:

That, insofar as it is empowered to do so by law, the Council approves and adopts the revised Statement of Community Involvement as attached at Appendix 1 to Report A to the Cabinet subject to the inclusion of the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service in the list of those bodies that should be consulted.

66. HOME ENERGY CONSERVATION ACT – PROGRESS REPORT 2015 (REPORT B).

The Cabinet considered the biennial review of performance in achieving improvements in energy efficiency in the residential housing stock in the District.

It was noted that the target of reducing CO² emissions across the District had not been achieved, having risen by 3.75% between 2009 and 2012 (the latest available information). It was likely that the increase in CO² emissions was a result of a greater proportion of electricity being generated from coal, rather than gas. This Council did not therefore have any influence over this factor. The per capita domestic CO² emissions in this District, although fluctuating, were however the same in 2012 as in 2009. It was therefore proposed to retain the target of achieving a 10% reduction against 2009 levels for overall CO² emissions in the District by 2020.

The second key indicator that was measured was the number of households considered to be in fuel poverty. A change in the statistic used to measure fuel poverty, to the Low Income High Cost indicator, had complicated the assessment of performance. Under the old measure, the proportion of households in fuel poverty in this District had fallen by 27.5% against 2010 levels, to 9.2%, exceeding the target in the last HECA report. The Low Income High Cost Indicator classified 6.6% of households in the District as being in fuel poverty. By directing all initiatives towards the most vulnerable groups it was hoped to achieve a 25% reduction, to 4.95% of households in fuel poverty, by 2020.

It was noted that the Council had taken a number of pro-active measures with respect to its own buildings. These included the maintenance of its housing stock, with good insulation and efficient central heating boilers; the installation of solar PV panels on buildings; and the construction of the Ringwood Gateway Building to the BREEAM Excellent standard.

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) That the current target of a 10% reduction in domestic CO² emissions on 2009 levels by 2020 remain unchanged;**
- (b) That the Low Income High Cost definition for fuel poverty be adopted together with a target of a 25% reduction on 2012 levels by 2020, to 4.95% of households in fuel poverty; and**
- (c) That the Home Energy Conservation Act progress report, as attached at Appendix 1 to Report B to the Cabinet, be formally adopted for submission to Government.**

67. NATIONAL NON-DOMESTIC RATES – TRANSITIONAL RATE RELIEF 2015/16 AND 2016/17 (REPORT C)

The Cabinet considered whether to exercise the Council's discretionary powers to reflect a Government request to extend transitional rate relief until 2016/17, without the need for a change in legislation. It was noted that all costs would be met by the Government.

RECOMMENDED:

That the National Non-Domestic Rates – Transitional Relief Policy for 2015/16 and 2016/17, as attached as Appendix 1 to Report C to the Cabinet, be approved and adopted.

68. DELEGATION OF POWERS TO OFFICERS

RESOLVED:

That the following delegation be approved:

SOURCE	POWER DELEGATED	DELEGATION TO
Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s24	To be an authorised person and enter on any land for the purposes specified in section 24(1) of the Act	Senior Tree Officer (New Forest National Park Authority) or Tree Officer (National Park Authority), or Corporate Tree Manager, or Corporate Tree Officer

CHAIRMAN

(CB040315)