

1 APRIL 2015

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Wednesday, 1 April 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
ap 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

Councillors:

J Penwarden
A W Rice
W S Rippon-Swaine
Mrs A M Rostand
Mrs C Ward
J G Ward

Also In Attendance:

Mrs A Murphy - Tenant Cabinet Representative

Officers Attending:

D Yates, R Jackson, J Mascal, Miss J Debnam, C Elliott, G Bettle, Ms D Lucas, C Read, Mrs J Stainer, Miss G O'Rourke and Mrs K Williams.

69. MINUTES.

RESOLVED:

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

70. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

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

71. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

No issues were raised during the public participation period.

72. PROJECT INTEGRA ACTION PLAN (REPORT A).

The Cabinet considered the action plan needed to mandate Project Integra's activities with respect to waste management across Hampshire. They also considered whether a longer term view should be taken, producing a 3 year programme of action, instead of the current 1 year rolling plan. This change would also require the Constitution of the Partnership to be updated. Members considered that the proposed 3 year plan would be more efficient, reducing the administrative burden associated with the current annual reviews.

The Cabinet supported proposed changes to the funding and targeting arrangements for Recycle for Hampshire, which would also allow the Partnership to seek matched funding from external sources to support specific campaigns. This Council would continue to support the Schools' Education Programme, so that it would continue to operate in this District, to meet local needs.

It was noted that the proposed contribution by this Council towards the cost of Project Integra in 2015/16 was £20,373, compared to £31,552 in 2014/15.

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) That the Project Integra Action Plan 2015-2018, as attached at Appendix 1 to Report A to the Cabinet, in its new format of a 3 year plan, be approved; and***
- (b) That the Project Integra Constitution be amended, as shown in Appendix 2 to Report A to the Cabinet, to reflect this change.***

73. PROVISION OF CONSERVATION AND HERITAGE ASSET ADVICE AS A SHARED SERVICE WITH THE NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY (REPORT B).

Following the successful establishment of joint working arrangements with the New Forest National Park Authority for this Council's functions with respect to the protection and management of trees, the Cabinet considered whether to establish equivalent arrangements for the provision of conservation and heritage asset advice. Decisions in respect of listed buildings and conservation areas in the District, outside of the National Park, would continue to be taken by this Authority, with only the advice service being shared.

The terms of the proposed Service Level Agreement were set out in Appendix 1 to the report. The existing member of staff would be transferred to the National Park Authority under the terms of the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employees) Regulations 2006 and raised no objection.

Members welcomed the potential efficiencies that could be achieved through the establishment of the larger team necessary to serve both authorities.

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) ***That the Council enter into an agreement under S101 of the Local Government Act 1972 to enable the New Forest National Park Authority to provide professional advice on the Council's Conservation and Heritage Asset function as outlined in the draft Service Level Agreement attached as Appendix 1 to Report B to the Cabinet, with powers being delegated to the New Forest National Park Authority, through its officers, to enter land and serve requisitions for information under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990; and***
- (b) ***That the Head of Planning and Transportation be authorised, in consultation with the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and the Planning and Transportation Portfolio Holder, to finalise the terms of the aforementioned agreement, the related financial provisions and the legal arrangements necessary to give effect to these recommendations.***

74. REVISION OF PROCUREMENT RULES, REGULATIONS AND CONTRACT STANDING ORDERS (REPORT C)

The Cabinet considered revisions to the Council's procurement policies and procedures, and consequent amendments to the Council's Standing Orders with respect to Contracts, to respond to the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) ***That revised Contract Standing Orders, as set out in Appendix 1 to Report C to the Cabinet, be adopted for all procurement procedures commenced on or after 26 February 2015;***
- (b) ***That the previous Contract Standing Orders (version 14 March 2013) continue to be followed for all contract award procedures commenced on or before 25 February 2015; and***
- (c) ***That delegated authority be given to the Executive Director (Section 151 Officer) in consultation with the Head of Property Services and the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, to make further revisions to the Contract Standing Orders as and when required.***

75. EXPRESSIONS OF THANKS

On behalf of a number of Members of the Council, Cllr J Ward expressed his appreciation of the hard work of the members of the Cabinet over the last 4 years, in what had proved to be very challenging times. Those thanks were echoed by Cllr Beck who also thanked the officers, referring in particular to the recent completion of the refurbishment of the toilet block at Barton on Sea, which had been completed well, and ahead of schedule, to the great appreciation of the people using that area.

Cllr Rickman, the Leader of the Council, thanked the Chief Executive, the other officers and his fellow Councillors for all their work over the last 4 years, which had succeeded in leaving the Council in a soundly based position, notwithstanding the challenging times which the Council had faced during that period.

CHAIRMAN

(CB010415)