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NOTIFICATION OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

COUNCIL – 22 OCTOBER 2012

The following decisions were taken at the above meeting: -

Agenda Item 5 – Report of Cabinet (3 October 2012)

DECISION:

The recommendations were adopted.

Agenda Item 7 – Portfolio Holder Questions Under Standing Order 22A

(1) Localism Act 2011

Cllr Mrs Beeton asked the Leader of the Council whether the Council acknowledged and supported the Localism Act 2011.

The Leader of the Council replied that the Council did support the Act. The Council had responded positively to the opportunities it afforded. The introduction of the Act had led to the Council adopting a number of new policies.

Cllr Mrs Beeton was pleased to hear the Leader's remarks particularly in the light of the Act's provisions in relation to developments in communities such as Milford.

(2) Housing Waiting List

Cllr Mrs Robinson asked the Housing and Communities Portfolio Holder if the housing waiting list (of approximately 6000 families) was to be reduced by around 1000 because additional homes had been found in the District.

The Portfolio Holder replied that the Cabinet would shortly consider proposed changes to the Council's Homeseach Allocation Scheme. Provisions in the Localism Act 2011 provided more local control to District Councils to manage their housing waiting lists and allocations. The Council now had greater control over who was eligible to appear on the Homeseach waiting list. Applicants who had no reasonable chance of being housed, as they did not have a local connection or a recognised need for housing, would no longer be entitled to join the waiting list. This would reduce the numbers on the list from 5,500 households to approximately 4,000.

As a supplementary question, Cllr Mrs Robinson expressed the view that the 'bedroom' tax had given rise to more applications for smaller properties, and asked if the Council had undertaken any research into the number of applicants for smaller homes and whether the Council would have enough properties to meet this demand.

The Portfolio Holder undertook to respond to Cllr Mrs Robinson on this point but doubted whether the Council would ever have sufficient housing for those needing homes.

(3) Register of Members' Interests

Cllr C Harrison asked the Leader of the Council whether he condoned the fact that some members had not yet completed and returned their Register of Interest forms within the 28 day period prescribed by law, which he understood was a criminal offence. The Leader of the Council said that he did not excuse criminal activity but he was unclear about the background to the question. It might be that personal circumstances were involved. He undertook to discuss the matter with Cllr C Harrison.

Agenda Item 8 – Notice of Motion

DECISION:

The Council approved the motion set out in the agenda, and offered its formal support to the following resolution by Ringwood Town Council: -

“That Ringwood Town Council, having deep concerns related to the number of vehicle accidents in the urban stretch of the A31 in Hampshire from Picket Post to the Ashley Heath interchange, and having regard to public opinion, petitions the Highways Agency to once again review, in consultation with this (*Ringwood Town*) Council, measures which, if implemented, would have a beneficial impact on the accident rate on that section of the A31.”

THIS DECISION LIST HAS BEEN PREPARED BY THE COMMITTEE ADMINISTRATOR AND IS CIRCULATED TO INFORM COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS IMMEDIATELY OF DECISIONS REACHED AT COUNCIL MEETINGS. THE WORDING OF RESOLUTIONS IN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING MIGHT DIFFER FROM THE ABOVE.