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NOTIFICATION OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

COUNCIL – 24 FEBRUARY 2014

The following decisions were taken at the above meeting: -

Agenda Item 4 – Leader’s Announcement

The Leader of the Council referred to new regulations which required local authorities to take decisions relating to the budget by recorded vote. Although the regulations were not yet in force, the Council agreed to take recorded votes.

Agenda Item 5 – Reports of Committees and Cabinet

Report of Audit Committee

DECISION:

The recommendations were adopted.

Report of General Purposes & Licensing Committee

DECISION:

The recommendation was adopted.

Reports of Cabinet

DECISION:

The recommendations were adopted.

Agenda Item 7 – Questions to Portfolio Holders under Standing Order 22A

Reduction in Carbon Emissions

Cllr D Harrison asked the Environment Portfolio Holder whether, given the recent extreme weather, the Conservative Group wished to change its position expressed in October 2011 when it had urged the Government not to make commitments to reduce carbon dioxide emissions further or faster than other major industrialised nations.

The Portfolio Holder replied that he continued to support the previously expressed view, particularly when, in comparison, this nation's emissions were relatively low. Efforts would be made to find alternative fuel sources and reduce the cost of fuel, which were important to residents in fuel poverty and those struggling financially.

Housing Benefit

Cllr M Wade asked the Finance and Efficiency Portfolio Holder how 31 New Forest District Council tenants wrongly suffered a reduction in housing benefit by being illegally hit with the bedroom tax by this authority.

The Portfolio Holder replied that there had been a loophole in the legislation that had come into effect on 1 April 2013 which effectively exempted any claimant who had been in continuous receipt of housing benefit at the same address since 1 January 1996 from the new requirements.

31 claimants had been entitled to the exemption. Prompt action had been taken to inform the relevant tenants of the position and the underpaid housing benefit had been paid to the claimants' landlords. The regulations had subsequently been amended and the exemption no longer applied from 3 March 2014. The Council would apply the restrictions from that date and had notified all claimants. The Council had acted promptly and efficiently to deal with the matter.

Cllr M Wade asked a supplementary question regarding the cost to the authority as a result of the loophole and whether any other cases had been identified. The Portfolio Holder explained that the costs of the payments were borne by the Government. The only other cost to the Council was officer time.

Agenda Item 8 – The 2014/15 Council Tax (Report B)

DECISION:

The recommendations were agreed.

Agenda Item 9 – Membership of Committees and Panels

Audit Committee

Cllr Mrs Woodfield has been replaced by Cllr J G Ward.

Agenda Item 10 – Delegation of Powers to Officers

DECISION:

The delegations were agreed.

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.