

REPORT OF DIRECT SERVICES CONTRACTS COMMITTEE

(Meeting held 26 November 1999)

1. NEW FOREST CATERERS (REPORT A) (MINUTE No 18)

The Committee examined the trading account for the 6 months 1 April to 30 September 1999.

Members were pleased to note that overall the account was showing a surplus which exceeded both the budget for that period, and the surplus for the corresponding period in 1998.

2. NEW FOREST COMMERCIAL SERVICES (REPORT B) (MINUTE No 19)

The Committee examined the trading accounts for the 6 months 1 April to 30 September 1999.

Members were informed that steps were being taken to try to increase the volume of highways, coastal defences, and sewers works, and thus the turnover of the Engineering Works section.

The crews who will operate the new mechanical pavement sweepers, which have been funded by Environmental Services and Licensing Committee, have now been trained. A programme for bringing the new machines fully into use will come into operation soon.

Members will be pleased to learn that the public conveniences at Camden Hurst (Hordle Cliff) and the Furlong Car Park Ringwood have been commended in the national "Loo Attendant of the Year" competition, and the two attendants at the Furlong have received "Attendant of the Year" awards.

Finally, Policy and Resources Committee have been asked to approve expenditure of £5,000 from New Forest Commercial Services Reserve Fund to finance the provision and refurbishment of a non-smoking mess/rest room at Marsh Lane Depot Lymington. At present, the mess room is a designated smoking area. Discussions with trade union representatives have revealed strong support for designating it a non-smoking area. The current decor and furnishings are also below a reasonable standard. It is therefore proposed to re-designate the mess room as a non-smoking mess/rest room, and to refurbish and redecorate it so it can provide a practical facility with uses ranging from employee lunch breaks to training events. This proposal would also comply with a new Health and Safety code of practice which specifically refers to the need for non-smoking areas. Members were extremely pleased to learn that the local branch of UNISON had offered to contribute £2,500 towards the total estimated project cost of £7,500.

**Cllr A W Rice TD
CHAIRMAN**