

REPORT OF DIRECT SERVICES CONTRACTS COMMITTEE

(Meeting held 23 June 2000)

1. NEW FOREST CATERERS (REPORT A) (MINUTE No 8)

The Committee examined the trading account for the 1999/2000 year and was pleased to note a satisfactory surplus in excess of that budgeted for.

The catering service at Dibden Golf Centre makes the greatest contribution to the surplus. Business there is thriving, with function bookings most weekends, and a substantial increase in trade during the year connected to daytime bookings for seminars and similar events.

2. NEW FOREST COMMERCIAL SERVICES (REPORT B) (MINUTE No 9)

The Committee examined the trading accounts for the 1999/2000 year, and was please to note that a surplus had been achieved on each of them, that is engineering works, building works, cleansing, building cleaning, and transport.

Many contracts carried out by the engineering works section in particular need to operate on very tight margins to maintain competitiveness.

New Forest Commercial Services has secured a three year grounds maintenance contract with Milford-on-Sea Parish Council.

A survey carried out by Hampshire County Council has shown that the winter maintenance work carried out by engineering works is one of the most efficient in the county.

Building works is another highly competitive area of business. Nevertheless, New Forest Commercial Services were successful in winning a number of high value contracts, and performance on carrying out non-programmed repairs and maintenance work promptly was consistently above target.

Domestic refuse is now being collected from within the boundaries of some properties in Brockenhurst to overcome interference from, and risk to, forest animals.

As anticipated, demand for the special collection service has dropped significantly since the Council introduced charges in April.

After retention of a prudent reserve, the surplus on the fleet management trading account will, as always, be returned to the appropriate service Committees.

The Committee requested Policy and Resources Committee to approve expenditure from the New Forest Commercial Services Reserve Fund for two reasons, the first in connection with an employment matter, and the second to establish a fund to finance investment in training.

**Councillor M C Kidman
CHAIRMAN**