

REPORT OF POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

(Meeting held on 11 June 2001)

1. NEW FOREST DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN (REPORT A) (MINUTE NO.7)

The New Forest District Local Plan was adopted in November 1999 and work immediately started on a review. The Planning and Transportation Committee in April 2000 agreed that, rather than adopt a complete replacement plan, selective alterations would be produced to the adopted Local Plan.

A series of issues papers was produced and widespread consultation took place on these last year. Taking into account all the responses to the issues papers, schedules of proposed alterations to the adopted Local Plan were produced.

A joint meeting of the Economy and Planning Review Panel and the Planning Development Control Committee took place on 4 June to consider the proposed alterations and a number of additions and amendments were agreed.

Members noted that a special edition of Forest News would be issued detailing the main changes to the Local Plan and a reply form would be available for members of the public to return their comments on the proposals.

The Advisory Cabinet have also considered the report and have supported the proposed changes.

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) That the proposed alterations to the adopted New Forest District Local Plan, as set out in Annexes 1,2,3 and 4 to the report to the joint meeting of the Economy and Planning Review Panel and the Planning Development Control Committee on 4 June 2001, be agreed to be placed on deposit for public consultation subject to the following amendments that were agreed at the meeting on 4 June :**
 - (i) that the alterations should include text clarifying the A326/A35 Junction scheme has yet to be finalised and may need to include land within the proposed housing "reserved site" at Policy TE-15 (Durley Farm, Hounsdown);**
 - (ii) Issues relating to Policy DW-E1 on limits of housing density and proximity to neighbouring houses should be addressed through Supplementary Planning Guidance to Policy DW-E1 in addition to the proposed policy change;**
 - (iii) Amended text in relation to Policy HD-9 Section F17 as circulated at Appendix 1 to this report be supported;**

- (iv) ***That the proposed map alteration PM2Amaj2 (Dreamland site, Hythe) should be amended to re-route the proposed public waterfront footpath inland on the route provided for in the latest planning permission;***
- (v) ***Policy DW-R1 be amended to read, in criteria (a), “alternative open space facilities of equivalent direct benefit”;***
- (vi) ***In respect of Section E11 the following amendments be made to Policy EH-1(Efford Horticultural Research Station):-***
 - (1) ***“there will be environmental benefits such as an improvement in the visual impact of the site in the landscape; and (instead of “such as a reduction”);***
 - (2) ***where feasible, the redevelopment scheme deals comprehensively with the full extent of the site as defined on the proposals map.***
- (vii) ***That the comments as circulated at Appendix 2 to this report in relation to the proposed town centre boundaries and primary shopping areas, be supported;***
- (viii) ***That Policy MS-1 be clarified;***
- (b) ***That the Director of Environment Services be authorised to make any necessary further minor amendments, including consequential changes and further editing changes, in preparing the proposed alterations for publication; and***
- (c) ***That the proposed Local Plan alterations be adopted as Council Policy for development control purposes.***

2. PAY AWARD 2001 (REPORT L) (MINUTE NO. 8)

The Committee have considered a report providing information on the Pay Negotiations 2001/02 and recommending that this year's pay award should be agreed at 3.5% or £380 whichever is the higher, in line with the national pay award.

The Council has only budgeted for a pay award in line with anticipated inflation (3%). The additional cost of 0.5% increase will need to be met by supplementary estimates. The additional 0.5% or £380 will equate to an additional £105,000. Of this, £95,000 will fall to the General Fund for which there is no provision. £10,000 will fall to the Housing Revenue Account.

The Council's practice is to apply the nationally agreed pay award except where it will be detrimental to the Council's pay structure. Anything other than a straight percentage increase is usually rejected, as it will distort the pay scales. However, in this instance, the bottom loading will have the effect of keeping hourly pay above the minimum wage when this increases in October 2001, therefore, it makes sense to apply this increase.

The Employee Side thanked members, especially members of the former pay panel for the speed at which this year's offer had been made. All members of the three trade unions had been balloted on the offer of 3.5% or £380, (whichever was the greater). The result of the ballot was an overwhelming acceptance of the offer.

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) That a pay settlement equal to the nationally agreed pay settlement (3.5% or £380, whichever is greater) is awarded;**
- (b) That supplementary estimates of £95,000 for the additional cost of the pay award that will fall on the General Fund, and £10,000 from Housing Revenue Account balances be approved; and**
- (c) That Local Agreement No. 22 attached to this report be signed by all parties.**