

## REPORT OF CABINET

(Meeting held on 7 September 2005)

### 1. CONSULTATION ON COMMUNITY SERVICES FOR OLDER PEOPLE (REPORT B) (MINUTE NO. 40)

The Cabinet has received a consultation document on Community Services for Older People produced by the South West Hampshire Primary Care Trust (SWHPCT) and considered the Council's recommended response.

The Cabinet had received several written submissions from members of the public on the topic, as well as other agencies and interested parties. The following 10 persons addressed the Cabinet:-

Dr T McEwen - Chawton House Surgery, Lymington

Prof M Hall – Retired Professor from Southampton and Lyndhurst resident with interest in the Fenwick Hospital

Mr J Beaumont – Alzheimer's Carer and Member of New Forest Patients and Public Involvement Forum and Reference Group Forum

Ms C Tomlinson – Recently Retired Practice Nurse of 16 years and former PCT Committees Member, New Milton and Barton-on-Sea Committee Nursing

Mrs J Badham – Milford-on-Sea War Memorial Hospital League of Friends

Mrs A Hickman - Fordingbridge League of Friends

Mrs J Carr - Hythe Hospital League of Friends

Ms S Roch – Hythe Resident

Mrs R Westall – New Milton Resident

Mr P Checksfield – Romsey Resident/Employed in Pharmaceutical Industry

All of the above speakers expressed opposition to the options proposed by the SWHPCT.

Members discussed the issues raised, together with the various options set out in the Consultation Paper. The main points to emerge were as follows:-

There were repeated references to the lack of clarity in the financial information set out in the consultation document which made it very difficult to get a true picture of the implications of the proposal and the claimed benefits accrued.

It was noted that, of the five original options, three had been withdrawn, broadly leaving the two remaining options:-

- (i) Closure of all hospital beds; and
- (ii) The closure of more than half of the present number of hospital beds.

Although the document purported to focus on community services specifically for Older People, it appeared that the proposals would also have adverse consequences for younger people which had not been addressed.

The Community Hospitals had been strategically placed in order to best meet the needs of the populations they served, and therefore if one of these hospitals were removed it would seriously disrupt provision in the area. Furthermore if hospitals were closed the properties would be sold if no other use were found. It would be very difficult to find other uses, and the market price was likely to be too high for the Council to intervene and assist in their retention. Any capital receipts from the sale of such properties would be absorbed into a central pool rather than the funds being made available locally. The sale of such community assets would no doubt be turned into a lucrative property development to which the Council could not agree.

The loss of any hospitals would cause particular difficulties for patients in the New Forest, as the rural nature of the area exacerbated the existing transport problems. There was for instance no public transport between Hythe and Milford.

It was felt that the arguments put forward by the PCT were not strong enough to justify closing community hospitals simply to resolve financial deficits. The closures would produce relatively small savings, and in any case reorganisations should be based primarily on medical rather than financial reasons.

Members strongly disputed the suggestions that home support could be more cost effective than retaining hospitals. The quoted costs in the press (£86 per week for home visits, compared to £210 per patient per week for hospital care) seemed unrealistic, especially given the likely difficulties of recruiting extra staff, and their related transport costs, given the rural nature of the Forest.

Having heard from 10 speakers at the meeting, many with considerable knowledge and first hand experience, and after noting carefully their views, together with the issues paper and other information received, Cabinet concluded that the Council's response to the consultation paper should be to oppose all the options proposed by the SWHPCT.

The Leader of the Council explained that the Council's response would also be sent to the Chairman of Hampshire County Council's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, with the request that the Committee veto the PCT's proposals and attempt to delay any decision until 2008.

**RECOMMENDED:**

***That, following the representations from members on the public together with other information received and Cabinet discussions, a response be drafted for consideration by the Council with the aim of producing an unanimous Council response. This response should reject all the options in the document.***

**2. SETTING THE COST OF PARKING CLOCKS FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY 2006 – 31 DECEMBER 2006 (REPORT C) (MINUTE NO. 41)**

The Cabinet is proposing changes to the current parking clock scheme. These proposals form the next stage in the Council's traffic management plans. Following the introduction of decriminalised parking in January 2006, the Council will be in a position to consider whether further amendments to parking provisions are appropriate, such as extending the clock scheme to on-street parking, further

controlling areas where on-street parking is permitted, and enforcing off-street and on-street parking legislation as a whole so that problems are not simply transferred from one area to another. Following the introduction of decriminalisation, any profits from on-street parking will be ring-fenced for traffic management purposes and could be used, for example, on improving local bus services in consultation with the County Council.

The aims of the proposals are to encourage use of town and village shops to keep town and village centres vibrant, while discouraging congestion in long-stay car parks. It is hoped that maintaining a low cost (£8 a year) "short stay" clock for shoppers and those visiting town and village centres for 3 hours or less, while introducing a more expensive (£80 a year or £44 for 6 months) District-wide clock for those wishing to park long term, such as commuters, will achieve both objectives and will encourage those who drive to work to consider car sharing or other modes of transport where these are convenient. However, the inadequacies of alternative methods of transport in many parts of the District are recognised, and the proposed price of £80 for the District-wide clock, which will also be valid in amenity car parks, is less than half the price charged by the lowest charging neighbouring Districts.

As an estimate, replacement of the current £6 parking clock with the scheme set out above could give rise to a total annual income from the sale of clocks in 2006 of about £720,000, as opposed to £332,200 for 2005. Any profits from off street parking would go into the General Fund and could then be used to improve services in transport or any other areas.

Representations have also been received that a two hour short stay period can be inadequate to attend activities at Community Centres or undertake all the activities necessary during a shopping visit. In those short stay car parks where the maximum waiting time is currently 2 hours, an increase to 3 hours is therefore proposed.

The intention is that the current annual permit for amenity car parks will remain, as an alternative for those who wish to use amenity car parks regularly but do not wish to buy a District-wide clock. The annual up-rating of the charge for amenity permits from £38 to £45 for residents and £44 to £50 for non-residents is recommended for 2006.

It is recommended that the principle of these proposals now form the basis of consultation. In addition to the statutory requirements for public advertisement, all Parish and Town Councils and local Chambers of Commerce will be asked for their views. It is recognised that different areas of the District experience different parking-related issues. For example, some Community Centre users are reliant on a Council car park when participating in events at the Centre lasting more than 3 hours, and the viability of Community Centres could be affected if users were required to pay at a ticket machine or buy a District-wide permit in order to participate in such events. It might be appropriate to introduce special arrangements for those car parks. Also, the Cabinet wishes to encourage use of the Hythe Ferry, so special arrangements may be appropriate for Ferry users.

Consultation will be undertaken over the coming weeks, and it is proposed that, once responses are received, a final decision will be taken by Council on 24 October 2005. The proposals are also subject to the County Council's consent.

**RECOMMENDED:**

(a) *That officers be authorised to take the appropriate steps laid down in the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) Regulations to advertise amendments to the District of New Forest (Off-Street Parking Places) Order to:*

(i) *implement a parking clock scheme as follows:*

*a short-term or shoppers clock, at a cost of £8 for the 2006 calendar year or part thereof, enabling parking for up to 3 hours in any town or village centre car park;*

*a District-wide parking clock, at a cost of £80 for the 2006 calendar year or part thereof (or £44 for the 6 month periods commencing 1 January and 1 July or part thereof), enabling parking for up to the maximum period permitted in any town or village centre, or any amenity, car park;*

(ii) *increase to 3 hours the maximum period for which vehicles may wait between 8.00 a.m and 6.00 p.m in all town and village centre car parks where a 2 hour maximum currently applies;*

(b) *That officers be authorised to take the appropriate steps laid down in the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) Regulations to amend the District of New Forest (Off-Street Parking Places) Order to implement the following charges for amenity car park permits for the 2006 calendar year:*

<b>Category of applicant</b>	<b>Proposed charge (1 March to 31 October 2006)</b>
<i>Residents of New Forest District</i>	<i>£45.00 per permit</i>
<i>Non-residents of New Forest District</i>	<i>£50.00 per permit</i>
<i>Additional registration on same permit (maximum 2 vehicles)</i>	<i>£6.00 per permit</i>
<i>Replacement permit</i>	<i>£6.00 per permit</i>

(c) *That consultations be undertaken with Hythe Ferry owners and Hythe and Dibden Parish Council with a view to establishing special arrangements for Hythe Ferry users; and*

(d) *That consultations be undertaken with Community Centres where users are reliant on Council-owned off street car parks, with a view to establishing special arrangements to assist appropriate Community Centre users.*

### 3. HAMPSHIRE LOCAL PUBLIC SERVICE AGREEMENT – THE SECOND GENERATION (LPSA2) (REPORT D) (MINUTE NO. 42)

The Cabinet has considered and agreed this Council's level of sign up to the second generation of the Hampshire Public Service Agreement, which is being co-ordinated by Hampshire County Council. The agreement has been structured using the following four main priorities, with one cross-cutting priority, arrived at following an assessment of County Council, District Council, other partners and community strategy priorities:

- Tackling barriers to recruitment;
- Helping people feel safe;
- Healthy Communities;
- Creating an environment to be proud of;
- Transport (cross-cutting)

The priorities in the Agreement reflect three of this Council's priorities – community safety, clean streets & public spaces, and housing. The overall LPSA process should make a useful contribution to the Council's fourth priority – managing our finances. The Cabinet's agreed level of sign up is to either levels 2 or 3.

The partnership group that has been working on LPSA2 has agreed the general allocations for pump priming and reward grant. The pump priming grant is just over £2 million across all partners, while the overall reward grant is potentially £29 million if every target achieves 100% stretch. It is, however, important to note that while the LPSA2 provides an opportunity for attracting resources into the District, a focused approach to achieving the stretch targets identified over a three-year period will be required.

The targets and level of sign up agreed by the Cabinet are set out in Appendix 1 to this report, subject to the specific activities set out in Appendix 2.

### 4. SUSPENSION OF FINANCIAL REGULATIONS (REPORT E) (MINUTE NO. 43)

The Director of Resources has suspended Financial Regulations in order to permit virement of £15,000 from the Health and Leisure Centres chemical dosing plants to the scheme for the squash court conversion and refurbishment at Applemore Health and Leisure Centre. The Director of Resources' action was taken following the receipt of tenders for the work considerably in excess of the estimate, and a fundamental review of the scheme in order to reduce the overall cost.

#### **RECOMMENDED:**

***That the decision by the Director of Resources to suspend Financial Regulations to enable £15,000 to be vired from the Health and Leisure Centres pool chemical dosing units to the squash court conversion and refurbishments at Applemore Health and Leisure Centre be noted.***

**Cllr M J Kendal  
CHAIRMAN**

APPENDIX 1

Main Priority: Tackling barriers to recruitment

Priority for improvement (Outcome)	Target(s)	Indicator(s)	Proposed level of NFDC sign up
1. Increased work opportunities and employment through raising skill levels and educational attainment	1. Raising skills levels amongst the relatively under skilled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. School leavers literacy and numeracy levels</li> <li>ii. adult NVQ level 2</li> </ul>	3
	2. Raising pupil attainment and staying on rates into post 16 education/training and reducing exclusions and levels of absence in targeted schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. 5+ A*-C/A*-G GCSE</li> <li>ii. CLA with above</li> <li>iii. Staying on rates for 16/17 year olds</li> <li>iv. CLA in education training or employment at age 19</li> <li>v. excluded pupils and attendance at targeted schools</li> </ul>	2
2. Increased economic activity in predominantly rural areas and with groups currently under represented in the labour market in urban areas	3. Increased number of SMEs starting up and surviving in predominantly rural areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Start ups</li> <li>ii. Survival rates</li> </ul>	2
	4. Increased number of SMEs started by women in urban areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Start ups by women</li> <li>ii. Survival rates of start ups by women</li> </ul>	3

**Main Priority: Helping people feel safe**

<b>Priority for improvement (Outcome)</b>	<b>Target(s)</b>	<b>Indicator(s)</b>	<b>Proposed level of NFDC sign up</b>
3. Reducing violent crime	5. reducing incidences of violence in public places	i. Crime stats (Police) ii. Sales of alcohol to under 18s	2
	6. reducing re-offending rates of young offenders	i. Re-offending rates (YOT)	3
4. Reducing fear of crime and helping people feel safer	7. reduce deliberate fires	i. Deliberate fires (HFRS)	2
	8. more residents feel safe	i. MORI survey ii. Satisfaction with ACSOs	2
	9. fewer school children victims of crime	i. School survey (LEA and schools)	3
5. Safer roads and journeys	10. reduced number of killed and seriously injured on Hampshire's roads	i. No's killed and seriously injured	3

**Main Priority: Healthy Communities**

<b>Priority for improvement (Outcome)</b>	<b>Target(s)</b>	<b>Indicator(s)</b>	<b>Proposed level of NFDC sign up</b>
6. Improved health and life expectancy	11. Increased no of adults adopting healthier lifestyle	i. 30 minutes moderate activity 5 times a week	2
	12. Improved health of children under 11 by reducing overweight and obesity ( <b>over 5 years</b> )	i. Children classified as overweight or obese	2
	13. Lives saved by faster emergency response times	i. Category A emergency calls response time	3
7. Improved quality of life and independence for vulnerable older people	14. Reduce emergency bed days of older people	i. Unplanned admissions ii. Average length of stay	2
8. Increased participation in community activities	15. Increased number and extent of people participating in local voluntary and community activities	i. No of people by type of activity ii. Frequency of participation iii. Extent of participation	2
9. Improved housing for vulnerable people	16. More people with social care needs able to access appropriate and affordable housing	i. No people assessed as having social care needs who sign licence or lease for homes allocated as affordable	2



**Main Priority: Creating an environment to be proud of**

<b>Priority for improvement (Outcome)</b>	<b>Target(s)</b>	<b>Indicator(s)</b>	<b>Proposed level of NFDC sign up</b>
10. Cleaner public places	17. Improved cleanliness of land and highways and condition of streets and pavement	i. BV199 ii. BV187	2
11. Greater commitment to sustainable use of natural resources in the commercial and public sectors	18. Increased tonnage of waste diverted from landfill through greater participation in recycling by local private and public sector organisations	i. No tonnes commercial waste recycled per annum ii. No local authorities offering recycling facilities to SMEs iii. No schools and public sector sites involved in recycling	2

**Main Cross cutting priority**

<b>Priority for improvement (Outcome)</b>	<b>Target(s)</b>	<b>Indicator(s)</b>	<b>Proposed level of NFDC sign up</b>
12. Improved transport	19. Increased average growth in bus patronage on Quality Bus Partnership routes	ii. Average growth in patronage on QBP routes	3



**APPENDIX 2**

**DETAIL OF NFDC ACTIVITY AS A LEVEL 2 PARTNER IN LPSA2**

<b>Target Ref No</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>NFDC Activity</b>	<b>Resource Issues</b>	<b>Comments</b>
2	Reducing levels of exclusions and absence in targeted schools	<p>Youth Sports Projects (3 schools) to more directly engage with schools on exclusion agenda.</p> <p>Facilitate new sub group / mechanism related to the Children and Young People CAN to integrate active agencies &amp; build on recent seminar.</p> <p>Forest Forge has NFDC and external funding to operate the 'Out of Joint Forum', specifically aimed at this audience. Could publicise the work.</p>	<p>As presented, these activities can be delivered within current budgets.</p> <p>However, if there were pump priming resources, their scope could be extend into areas that may not be covered e.g. under-performing schools, in the case of this target</p>	<p>The extension of project delivery such as 'Out of Joint' would need new funding. A submission has been offered previously but no comment.</p> <p>Likely to be wound up into CYPP so as long as networking and promotion are acceptable – should be OK</p> <p>Pump prime needs communication.</p>
3	Increased number of SME's starting up and surviving in predominantly rural areas	Business Support Officer now in post. There is now capacity for more support – over and above what happens now.	This is, in effect to LPSA 2, a new resource so will be added input to this target.	Lead has framed approach. OK
4	Increased number of SMEs started by women in urban areas	A level three now but there could be an incidental contribution as a result of action under target 3.		

5	Reducing incidences of violence in public places	We will explore joint enforcement of under age alcohol sales with HCC. This will involve authorising our staff under HCC Regulator Service Powers. A joint training programme will be devised to ensure that both organisations are happy that the staff meets the necessary competency standards.	Additional training costs may be absorbable. However it would work better if an additional 0.5 of an enforcement officer could be provided by the LPSA funding.	Under the new Initial Police Learning & Development Programme (IPLDP) we will offer to provide a placement opportunity for one of their officers. This will enable further work on enforcement to be done for our mutual benefit.
7	Reducing deliberate fires	Projects are being undertaken through the CDRP focusing on the reduction of fire setting by under 18's identified as fire setting or at risk of fire setting.	Within existing CDRP resources – no additional NFDC resources available.	This target dependent on the continued funding by the CDRP by GOSE.
8	More residents feeling safe	We will continue to work across the CDRP to improve community confidence.	Within existing CDRP resources – no additional NFDC resources available.	This target is dependent on the continued funding of the CDRP by GOSE.
11	Increased number of adults adopting healthier lifestyle	Promotion of swimming programme – use of pump prime to publicise.  Area based programme in Pennington, could be promoted to raise awareness	Marginal cost of swimming can be catered for. New marketing for this or new programmes needs funds.	There is some activity without additional resources but new programmes would need finance.  HCC lead outline for target has been framed.  OK Pump prime not decided.

Target Ref No	Target	NFDC Activity	Resource Issues	Comments
12	Reducing overweight & obesity in children under 11	Appointment of a project worker for 3 days per week to work with a strategic lead at the PCT and the Healthy Schools Team in targeted areas of deprivation to link together existing programmes & schemes.	Costs would be approx £17k pa for 2.5/3 days pw. NFDC to provide 50% if LPSA could provide the other half.	Dependent on pump priming money being available.
14	Reduced emergency bed days of older people	'Active for Life' programme works with groups of C.20 to increase independence and mobility – can deliver one or two programmes p.a.	There are resources to provide one or two programmes p.a.	No communication from sub group lead
15	Increased number and extent of people participating in local voluntary and community activities	Development Team support in community capacity building and creating links to training and other opportunities. Fostering of CAN and other links. Appropriate emphasis in CFNF Service Level Agreement	This is the allocation of time / making the most of contacts made in the community. This is already well established	Eastleigh VSC lead pump prime / outline not framed – meeting 30 <sup>th</sup> August. Communications suggest its likely match our capability. So probably OK
16	More people with social care needs able to access appropriate and affordable housing	Agreed that up to 5 lettings per year should be made available for residents with assessed care needs who are nominated by Social Services	No significant implications.	The proposal means that properties will not be available for applicants who would otherwise have been eligible through the Choice Based Lettings scheme.

Target Ref No	Target	NFDC Activity	Resource Issues	Comments
				The potential grant reward may, however, give the opportunity to replace lettings foregone with new provision in the future.
17	Improved cleanliness of land and highways and condition of streets and pavements	Six areas of improvement have been agreed with Portfolio Holder. These have now been submitted to the County Council via the Head of Environment at Havant Borough Council, who is acting as lead officer for the initiative.	As part of our submission we have requested some pump priming monies to allow us to improve the cleanliness of the areas identified	Havant BC are the lead Authority for this initiative. We have chosen 6 areas where with the aid of some additional pump priming funding we can make a difference to the standard street cleansing currently being achieved. The County Council will where appropriate be able to improve the condition of the paved areas as part of a more joined up working arrangement in these 6 areas
18	Increased tonnage of waste diverted from landfill through greater participation in recycling by local private and public sector organisations	Minimal progress, despite representations being made to move forward the initiative by New Forest District Council officers.	No significant implications at this present time but a more detailed plan will need to be undertaken once this initiative develops.	NFDC already have a approx 800 commercial Waste customers to our credit. The target for this area of work which has yet to be agreed will

Target Ref No	Target	NFDC Activity	Resource Issues	Comments
				allow us to work with HCC to encourage more businesses to recycle their waste. Minimal progress has been made, despite representations being made to move this initiative forward the initiative by New Forest District Council officers.