

REPORT OF CABINET

(Meeting held on 6 September 2006)

1. AGREEMENT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT WORKS ON HIGHWAY LAND PURSUANT TO SECTION 278 OF THE HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 (REPORT A) (MINUTE NO. 41)

The Cabinet has agreed to the principle of the Council undertaking environmental enhancement works in their own right on Hampshire County Council (HCC) land.

For the purposes of the Highways Act 1980 the County Council is the local authority for highways (except trunk roads) in Hampshire. Using powers under this legislation a Section 278 agreement will enable NFDC to undertake, at its own expense, environmental enhancement works on the public highway that would not otherwise qualify for inclusion in HCC's programme of works.

Funding for works will be secured prior to the agreement being entered into. Some schemes may generate income eg: provision of car parking, other schemes may be able to be funded by developers' contributions collected for a specific proposal.

There are currently three schemes underway that require separate Section 278 agreements all of which are included in the Council's agreed capital programme. The first is the A338 Slip Road, Fordingbridge Gateway. There is strong local support for this scheme, which includes extending the car park over a strip of highway verge and improving the appearance of the slip road. The second scheme is for environmental enhancements in Totton town centre. This includes landscaping at the Salisbury Road/Water Lane junction. The third scheme is a car park improvement scheme at St John's Car Park, Hythe which includes modifications to the car park accesses.

As individual agreements are required for each new scheme, the Cabinet has also agreed that, subject to prior agreement by the Portfolio Holder, the Chief Executive, Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Democratic Services Manager be delegated authority to enter into future agreements as and when necessary. The Council's Principal Engineers have also been granted delegated authority to enter into alternative arrangements.

2. PARKING CLOCK CHARGES 2007/08 (REPORT B) (MINUTE NO. 42)

The Cabinet has considered the arrangements for parking clock charges for the coming year. The current parking clocks expire on 31 December 2006 and, in order to give the public reasonable time to purchase clocks for 2007, the fees for the period need to be agreed in good time. The County Council, as Highway Authority, has given consent for the current clock scheme to run until 31 December 2007.

In 2006 long and short stay clocks were introduced with special provision for Hythe Ferry users, Lyndhurst Community Centre and Beaulieu Village Hall. Clock prices were increased at that time above inflation to reflect those changes and to try and achieve a balance between the value of the facilities provided and encouraging motorists to consider using alternatives means of travel. That increase generated additional income that will compensate for any loss in the coming year.

RECOMMENDED

- (a) ***That the fees for clocks to cover the period 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2007 remain at the 2006 levels as set out in section 2.1 of Report B to the Cabinet and that provision for this be made in the 2007/8 expenditure plan; and***
- (b) ***That no changes be made to the administration of the clock scheme for the period 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2007.***

3. ELING TIDE MILL : THE NEXT STEPS (REPORT C) (MINUTE NO. 43)

The Cabinet has considered the financial position with respect to completing phase one of the works to Eling Tide Mill together with proposals for the future for the Mill and the surrounding area.

Eling Tide Mill is the only tide mill in the UK regularly producing flour. It is unique and represents a strong connection to the working past of the area. Members agreed that the Mill was of great historical significance to the New Forest. The Council has previously agreed capital investment of approximately £100,000 to undertake a phased programme of improvement works at the Mill. The replacement of the Sea Gates are the only outstanding item of work from that programme.

The Cabinet considered additional information in relation to the tenders received. In considering the financing of the works required to replace the Sea Gates, the Cabinet recommends that the total amount of additional money required should be funded by means of a supplementary estimate rather than by virement from any other budget area.

The Leisure Portfolio Holder has been leading local discussions on the future of the Mill and the surrounding area and there is a consistent view from local organisations that a partnership arrangement with the Town Council and other interested parties would have many benefits. The Cabinet is therefore supporting that this approach be pursued with a view to the development of a general 'Eling Experience' concept in the area.

RECOMMENDED

- (a) ***That a partnership approach with Totton and Eling Town Council and other interested groups, as detailed in Report C to the Cabinet, be pursued with a view to the development of a general 'Eling Experience' concept in the area;***
- (b) ***That a supplementary estimate of £102,100 be agreed to enable the replacement of the Sea Gates at Eling Tide Mill subject to a satisfactory detailed assessment of the lowest tender; and***
- (c) ***That Totton and Eling Town Council be informed of the Council's proposed course of action.***

**4. PROPOSED FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY PORTFOLIO (REPORT D)
(MINUTE NO. 44)**

The Cabinet has considered a proposal to establish a new Finance and Efficiency Portfolio together with consequent changes to the current Policy and Resources Portfolio.

The Council's constitution provides that the Council must agree the number and content of portfolios. The Leader then makes appointments to those portfolios. The Corporate Overview Panel has particular responsibility for the overview and scrutiny functions relating to the Policy and Resources Portfolio and the proposed Finance and Efficiency Portfolio.

There has not been an opportunity to seek the formal views of the Corporate Overview Panel but, the Chairman of that panel has commented that he has no objection to the proposals which, in the main, revert to the arrangements previously in place.

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) *That a new Finance & Efficiency Portfolio be established, with the specific service responsibilities set out in Appendix 1 to this report;***
- (b) *That the revised specific service responsibilities of the Policy & Resources Portfolio, set out in Appendix 2 to this report, be approved; and***
- (c) *That the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to make the necessary consequential amendments to the Constitution arising from recommendations in (a) and (b) above.***

**Cllr M J Kendal
CHAIRMAN**

APPENDIX 1

PROPOSALS FOR NEW FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY PORTFOLIO

1. Value for Money
Identification of the efficiency programme of service related and cross-cutting reviews
2. Information and Communications Technology
 - i. Electronic Governance
 - ii. ICT Security Policy
 - iii. Evaluation of ICT initiatives
 - iv. Maintenance of ICT infrastructure
3. Asset Management - Land and Buildings Strategy for:-
Acquisition
Disposal
Ownership
Management & development
Insurance and operational Risk Management
- 3 Commercial Services
 - i. Reviewing business opportunities;
 - ii. Determining tender strategies;
 - iii Performance monitoring of business viability.
4. Capital and Revenue Budgets
 - i. advising on the adoption of financial strategies for the short, medium and long term financial health of the authority;
 - ii. advising on the overall level of the Council's expenditure and income
 - iii. implementing financial monitoring and forecasting;
 - iv. ensuring compliance with the Council's approved budgets.
5. Council Tax and Benefits (incl. Housing)
6. National Non-Domestic Rates and Discretionary Non-domestic rate relief
To determine the criteria to be applied in respect of applications for discretionary non-domestic rate relief and to determine any applications for such rate relief.
7. Central Support Services including
 - i. Accountancy
 - ii. Information Services
 - iii. Exchequer Functions (Payroll, Payments, Cashiers, Debtors)
 - iv. Legal and Democratic Services
 - v. Chief Executive's Administration
8. Employee and Civic Catering.

APPENDIX 2

PROPOSALS FOR AMENDED POLICY & RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

1. Corporate and Community Plans
 - i. Ensuring plans are prepared, published, implemented and reviewed involving partners and other stakeholders as appropriate;
 - ii. Keeping under regular review the processes adopted to achieve the above.
2. Performance Management
 - i. Implementation, monitoring and development of a corporate approach to performance management;
 - ii. Implementation, monitoring and review of an ongoing programme of continuous improvement across all the Council's services;
 - iii. Ensuring the Council's Performance Plan is published in accordance with statute.
3. Political and Management Structures
 - i. Adoption and review of the Constitution;
 - ii. Implementation of changes of Officer structures to provide adequate support to all Members of the Council.
4. Financial Strategy
 - i. Determine the Council's overall financial strategy and make proposals for the overall level of the Council's expenditure and income;
 - ii. Ensure effective internal audit arrangements are maintained.
5. Risk Management
Determine the Council's overall risk management strategy
6. Communications
 - i. Building relationships with other organisations;
 - ii. Regularly reviewing the corporate communications strategy;
 - iii. Ensuring effective internal communication.
7. Human Resources Strategy
 - i. Ensuring compliance with all employment legislation (except health and safety legislation);
 - ii. Leading negotiations on revisions to pay and other employee terms and conditions;
 - iii. Monitoring performance indicators and trends relating to employment (which comprises pay and reward; recruitment; employee relations and communications; organisational development; training and development; health and absence; safety; and equal opportunities).
8. Service Specific Grants
9. Other Corporate Matters
Any other matters of a corporate nature.