

REPORT OF CABINET

(Meeting held on 2 September 2009)

1. LYMINGTON RIVER – PROPOSED INTERTIDAL MUD FLAT RE-CHARGE (REPORT A) (MINUTE NO. 28)

Following a request from Wightlink Ferries Limited, the Cabinet has agreed that officers be authorised to continue negotiations with Wightlink in relation to a proposed trial inter-tidal mud flat recharge on the Boldre foreshore/Lymington River. The work, if carried out, would be as part of the measures to offset erosion and loss of designated habitat. The authorisation to continue negotiations relates only to the Council's position as landowner and Wightlink are aware that they will need to obtain all necessary consents and permissions for the trial inter-tidal mud flat recharge from the relevant competent authority as appropriate. Any decision taken by the Cabinet in this matter is without prejudice to the Council's future position in any further considerations.

If in the future, Wightlink comes forward with a proposal for habitat re-creation in support of a planning application for approval of ferry terminal works, at that point the Council may wish to take advice as to whether the habitat re-creation could be considered as 'mitigation' or 'compensation' and act accordingly.

Lymington has always been a working harbour and many techniques have been tried in the past to stop erosion, but none has been successful. The river is dredged on an annual basis to maintain the moorings in the river and the dredged material is currently deposited at sea. The Cabinet agreed that the re-charge proposal is another option that should be considered and may show that dredged material could be used productively.

A further report will be submitted to the Cabinet if and when Wightlink are in a position to proceed with the trial.

2. WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2009-2013 (REPORT B) (MINUTE NO. 29)

The Cabinet is recommending adoption of a draft Waste Management Strategy for the Council for 2009 – 2013 as set out in Appendix 1 to Report B to them. The Strategy sets out the service priorities for the next four years linked to the Council's Corporate Plan and the aims of Project Integra.

The basis of the Strategy is to mitigate the production of waste in the first place; encourage re-use at home and recycling and then as a last resort to deal with the residual waste in the most environmentally beneficial way possible.

The Council's Corporate Plan "Leading Our Forest Communities" sets a number of priorities for dealing with waste, including commitments to reduce the amount of waste and to keep the district clean and tidy. There are 6 key strategic objectives in the Strategy which reflect the priorities in the Corporate Plan:-

- Strive to increase recycling rates target taking into account the costs and benefits of measures to boost recycling;
- Take action to improve the quality and capture of collected dry recyclables;

- Increase participation in the garden waste collection service with all material being composted;
- Seek to maintain high levels of customer satisfaction with all aspects of the Council's Waste Management service;
- Work in partnership where this adds value to service delivery; and
- Keep the district clean and tidy.

The Council's recycling rate is within the top quartile of recycling rates for Waste Collection Authorities. To achieve higher levels of recycling, the Council will have to build on the success of existing schemes. This will include measures to improve the efficiency of the recycling centres, the possible introduction of a glass collection scheme and intensive publicity to boost the "capture" of recyclables and the "quality" of the material collected for recycling. The Cabinet were pleased to note that HCC were undertaking a review which may result in more products, such as tetra paks, being capable of being recycled in the district.

All of the household waste collected by New Forest District Council goes to the Marchwood Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) where it is burnt to generate electricity. The bottom ash from this incineration process is recycled into hard core and road making material.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Waste Management Strategy 2009 – 2013 attached as appendix 1 to Report B to the Cabinet be approved.

3. FINANCIAL REPORT – OUTTURN PROJECTION BASED ON PERFORMANCE TO JULY 2009 (REPORT C) (MINUTE NO. 30)

The Cabinet has considered the Council's financial performance for the first four months of 2009/2010 and the potential outturn implications on a portfolio and committee basis. They have noted the revised outturn forecasts and their potential impact on the Authority's revenue and capital budgets together with the detailed budget variations, both as set out in Report C to them.

Members noted that improved income and 'one off' government grants have helped to provide an additional £385,000 in the current year. The Council is still aiming to achieve the anticipated improvement in savings agreed by the Cabinet in July and, it is therefore important to continue with the Council's agreed Savings and Efficiency Programme in order to achieve the Council's target of £4m of savings required by the end of 2012.

**Cllr B Rickman
CHAIRMAN**