

REPORT OF CABINET
(Meetings held on 3 March 2010)

1. NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY CORE STRATEGY AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES (REPORT A) (MINUTE NO. 76)

The Cabinet has supported a revised National Park Core Strategy and Development Management Policies document.

An original consultation on a previous version of the document took place in the autumn of 2008. The New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA) recognised that the concerns expressed at that time by NFDC and by other organisations were very serious. A series of member/officer workshops were held and discussion on the way forward took place at the Joint Members Advisory Group.

The Cabinet now welcomes the opportunity to comment on the revised document and is very pleased to note that the Council's previous concerns have been resolved in the new version. The revised document now:

- Properly takes account of the social, economic and community needs of the 34,000 people who live in the National Park, while still reflecting National Park purposes;
- Properly reflects the New Forest District Sustainable Community Strategy;
- Recognises the responsibilities of NFDC regarding the National Park area and states the need to work together with other organisations including NFDC;
- Sets out the relationships with the surrounding areas, including the adjoining areas in New Forest District, in a much better way and emphasises the need for cross-boundary working;
- Sets out a Vision, Objectives and Spatial Policies that properly relate to each other and can be supported;
- Better reflects the needs of the local economy and local businesses, and takes on board the comments made on these matters by NFDC;
- Includes policies on affordable housing that are evidence-based and complement those accepted by the Inspector as a "welcome and innovative approach" in NFDC's Core Strategy; and
- Recognises the PUSH green infrastructure work.

Following a six week consultation period the NFNPA will consider any representations received and then decide whether to submit their Core Strategy to the Secretary of State for examination.

**2. PROJECT INTEGRA ANNUAL ACTION PLAN 2010 – 2015 (REPORT B)
(MINUTE NO. 77)**

The Cabinet has considered and supported the draft Project Integra Annual Action plan. The Plan is the mechanism by which the Project Integra Management Board receives its mandate to work on behalf of the partnership. The Action Plan also sets out the service priorities for the next five years; the financial arrangements and the costs of running the Board and associated joint activities of the partnership.

The partnership continues to be one of the best examples of joint working in relation to waste management in the UK. 89% of waste is diverted from landfill, 38% to re-use/recycling and composting and 51% to energy recovery. This is by far the highest waste diversion achievement of any County Grouping. The majority of the 11% that is still going to landfill is non-combustible waste from the Household Waste Recycling Centres.

The partnership arrangement does not affect the Council's ability to decide on the frequency and method of the collection service. The Council remains committed to a weekly refuse and recycling collection using the black and clear sack method. Whilst the Cabinet is pleased to note that the recent Audit Commission report highlights that the current collection methods provide good value for money, regardless of this the Council will always put its residents' views first.

Project Integra is always trying to widen the type of recyclables possible. However, the Cabinet agrees that new products will only be included in the recycling stream if there is a proven environmental benefit to them being recycled.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Project Integra Annual Business Plan 2010-2015 be agreed.

**3. NEW FOREST CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU (CAB) REPRESENTATIVES
(MINUTE NO. 78)**

The four current CAB's in the New Forest area will be amalgamated into one on 1 April 2010. The Council is now only invited to appoint an observer representative and a deputy observer representative who, although not trustees, will be in a position to carefully monitor the use of Council's grant money.

The amalgamation of the CAB's will provide a more efficient and useful service to clients. A number of offices will still operate around the district but will be administered at a central point.

The CAB is a charity and is funded approximately 90% by Council grant. The Cabinet agrees that, particularly in the current economic climate, the CAB delivers a much needed service to local residents and is an important organisation to support.

Cllr Vickers has been appointed as the Council observer representative, with Cllr J D Heron as the deputy on the revised New Forest Citizens' Advice Bureau with effect from 1 April 2010.

**Cllr B Rickman
CHAIRMAN**