

**13 DECEMBER 2010**

**NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Minutes of a special meeting of the New Forest District Council held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Monday, 13 December 2010.

- p Cllr Mrs P A Wyeth – Chairman
- p Cllr J Penwarden – Vice-Chairman

**Councillors:**

- p G C Beck
- p D A Britton
- p Mrs D M Brooks
- Mrs F Carpenter
- p Mrs J L Cleary
- p G F Dart
- p S P Davies
- e W H Dow
- e L T Dunsdon
- p Ms L C Ford
- p H F Forse
- e P C Greenfield
- p C J Harrison
- p D Harrison
- p E J Heron
- p J D Heron
- p P E Hickman
- p Mrs A J Hoare
- p Mrs M D Holding
- p J A G Hutchins
- p Mrs P Jackman
- e M J Kendal
- p C Lagdon
- p Mrs M E Lewis
- p Mrs K J Lord
- e Mrs P J Lovelace
- p B D Lucas
- p Mrs A E McEvoy
- p Mrs M McLean

**Councillors:**

- p G J Parkes
- p Sqn Ldr B M F Pemberton
- p L R Puttock
- p M P Reid
- p A W Rice
- p B Rickman
- e W S Rippon-Swaine
- p Mrs M J Robinson
- p Mrs A M Rostand
- e D J Russell
- p R F Scrivens
- p Lt Col M J Shand
- p Mrs B Smith
- p Mrs S I Snowden
- p A J Swain
- e M H Thierry
- p A R Tinsley
- p D B Tipp
- p C R Treleaven
- p F P Vickers
- p M S Wade
- p S S Wade
- p R A Wappet
- p J G Ward
- p A Weeks
- p Dr M N Whitehead
- e C A Wise
- p P R Woods
- Vacancy

**Officers Attending:**

D Yates, R Jackson, J Mascall, Miss G O'Rourke and A Rogers.

**32. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

There were no declarations of interest in connection with any agenda item.

**33. NEW EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS (REPORT A).**

In pursuance of a provision in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the Council considered new executive arrangements to operate from 5 May 2011. The Council had to adopt one of two models:-

- The 'strong Leader plus' model, or
- A 'Mayor' Model

The Cabinet at their meeting on 1 December 2010 had considered the advantages and disadvantages of each model and had recommended the Strong Leader Plus Model (a Leader and Cabinet Executive).

The Strong Leader Plus model was closest to existing arrangements, but differences of substance between the Strong Leader plus model and the system the Council currently operated were:

- (a) The Leader would be elected for a four year term, instead of annually;
- (b) The Leader, rather than full Council, would decide on the number and content of Cabinet portfolios;
- (c) The Leader, rather than the Cabinet, would decide on how executive decision-making powers were to be delegated; and
- (d) The office of Deputy Leader would become a formal appointment, and the post-holder would assume all the Leader's powers if the Leader was unable to act.

Members commented on the publication earlier in the day of the Localism Bill, including the implications for local government scrutiny arrangements and the option for authorities with populations over 85,000 to revert to committee systems.

Whilst it was acknowledged that the Council was required to consider new executive arrangements under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, it was felt by some members that neither of the executive models was democratic. In both cases decisions were made by a very small number of individuals, leading to a lack of accountability which was compounded when coupled with ineffective scrutiny arrangements. In response, it was explained that the Council's Scrutiny system was still under review, following a consultant's report, and the scrutiny working group would be meeting shortly to consider these matters. Some members supported a return to the 'committee system', which was provided for in the Localism Bill.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the new Leader and Cabinet option for executive arrangements, to operate from the May 2011 quadrennial elections, be agreed;
- (b) That the list of functions at Appendix 1 to Report A (functions which may, but need not, be the responsibility of the executive) continue to be executive functions; and

- (c) That the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to make any necessary amendments to the Council's constitution directly consequent on the recommendations above being approved.

CHAIRMAN

(DEMOCRAT/CL131210/MINUTES.DOC)