

## **REPORT OF CABINET**

**(Meeting held on 1 December 2010)**

### **1. ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT (REPORT A) (MINUTE NO. 44)**

The Cabinet has considered the Annual Audit and Inspection letter that summarises the work undertaken by the Audit Commission and the District Auditor for the preceding year.

The 2009/10 audit comprises two elements; the audit of the Council's financial statements and the auditor's assessment of the Council's arrangements to achieve value for money in use of resources.

The Audit Commission has issued an unqualified opinion on the Council's financial statements. The Auditor has said that the Council was well placed to implement the International Financial Reporting Standards in 2010/11.

The Audit Commission has also issued an unqualified Value for Money conclusion stating that the council had satisfactory arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

Members noted the current and future challenges that the Audit Commission has set out for the Council. The Council has prepared well and is ready to update its medium term financial strategy to reflect the grant settlement when known.

Historically the Council's financial planning has effectively supported delivery of its strategic priorities, and the Council has a proven track record of delivering high quality services within budget. The Auditor has said that the Council has good service review arrangements, which are supported by a culture of close working between members and officers.

Overall, the Audit Commission is satisfied that the Council is taking the steps necessary to meet the challenges to its future stability over the coming years and to ensure that it can continue to deliver key services for its residents.

The Cabinet is pleased that during these difficult and challenging times the external auditor is able to report to residents, taxpayers and visitors that the Council continues to provide good value for money and is safely looking after the public funds entrusted to it.

### **2. NEW EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS (REPORT B) (MINUTE NO. 45)**

The Cabinet has considered and made recommendations on this matter which are dealt with elsewhere on the Council agenda.

### **3. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK – SITES AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT (REPORT C) (MINUTE NO. 46)**

The Cabinet has agreed, having regard to the views expressed by Planning and Transportation Review Panel and Planning Development Control Committee, the Sites and Development Management Development Plan Document, as amended as a basis for general public consultation.

The document represents the next stage in producing the Council's Local Plan. Following a detailed selection process, the document identifies specific sites and development management policies to fulfill the aims of the Council's Core Strategy.

The document will be published in January 2011 for a six week public consultation period and the Cabinet is strongly encouraging everyone including members to comment on the suitability of the proposed sites. The final agreed policies will be those that members will use to determine future planning applications.

Whilst the expected 'Localism Bill' might change the Core Strategy/Local Plan processes, the fundamental planning considerations which are evidence based will not change and therefore it is appropriate to continue with the programme.

In discussion, the Cabinet noted that there is increasing development pressure on the district council areas on the edge of the New Forest National Park boundary. The Council has worked with the New Forest National Park Authority and they have informally supported the proposals. They will comment formally through the public consultation process.

The process to produce the document for public consultation has been a comprehensive and rigorous exercise and members are confident that the final document will produce strong and robust policies.

#### **4. THE COUNCIL TAX 2011/2012 – SETTING THE TAX BASE (REPORT D) (MINUTE NO. 47)**

The Cabinet has considered, and, in so far as it is empowered to do so by law, approved the calculation of the Council Tax base for the year 2011/12 as set out below. It has decided that pursuant to Report D to them and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Amendment) Regulations 2003, the amount calculated by this Council as its council tax base for the year 2011/12 be as follows and as detailed in Appendix 1 to Report D to the Cabinet:

<b>PARISH/TOWN</b>	<b>TAX BASE 2011/12</b>
Ashurst & Colbury	934.1
Beaulieu	516.4
Boldre	1051.9
Bramshaw	345.0
Bransgore	1870.4
Breamore	185.5
Brockenhurst	1849.5
Burley	774.9
Copythorne	1231.1
Damerham	236.5
Denny Lodge	153.7
East Boldre	403.4
Ellingham, Harbridge & Ibsley	594.7
Exbury & Lepe	109
Fawley	4904.1
Fordingbridge	2402.1
Godshill	219.3
Hale	265.5
Hordle	2477.6
Hyde	508.5
Hythe & Dibden	7843.0

<b>PARISH/TOWN</b>	<b>TAX BASE 2011/12</b>
Lymington & Pennington	7244.3
Lyndhurst	1415.1
Marchwood	2129.5
Martin	189.6
Milford on Sea	2763.5
Minstead	368.4
Netley Marsh	834.5
New Milton	11015.5
Ringwood	5514.0
Rockbourne	167.7
Sandleheath	281.4
Sopley	306.7
Sway	1696.2
Totton & Eling	9888.6
Whitsbury	102.0
Woodgreen	254.4
Whole District	73047.6

**Cllr B Rickman  
CHAIRMAN**

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