

## **REPORT OF CABINET**

**(Meeting held on 2 March 2011)**

### **1. SENIOR MANAGEMENT REVIEW (REPORT A) (MINUTE NO. 68)**

The Cabinet has considered a review of the Council's senior management structure, noted some changes and supported the need for a further review later in the year.

Since the last review in 2007/08 there have been significant changes in the national political environment and in particular the financial environment. The authority has responded to the impact of the credit crunch, a major reduction in Government grant and a huge number of radical new policies from the Coalition Government. There have been savings of over £600,000 in senior management costs over the past 6 years and the senior management structure has been working well. However, in seeking to protect front-line services, it is recognised that more savings should be sought.

Following a comprehensive review process and, taking into account the need for sufficient capacity of senior management to continue to take the authority forward positively, a number of changes as outlined in Report A to the Cabinet have been agreed.

Members noted that it is likely that these changes will result in further savings of more than £250,000. In terms of both finance and posts, the scale of changes proposed is considered proportional to the overall savings being made by the Council.

In recognising the changing nature of local government and the changing financial situation the reduction of employees is necessary. However, the Cabinet agree that no member came into local government to lose staff and they were exceptionally grateful to all employees for the excellent work that had been done over many years.

Further changes/reductions to the senior management structure will be made later in the year once any changes in the priorities of the new administration and the member structure at Cabinet and scrutiny level following the local elections is known. The detailed impact of a wide number of new Central Government policies affecting the Council and other partners will also be clearer by the autumn.

### **2. PROJECT INTEGRA REVIEW (REPORT B) (MINUTE NO. 69)**

As part of their 2010/15 Action Plan, Project Integra has carried out a review of their service. The review gives options for the future running and direction of Project Integra and member authorities have now been asked to comment on these outcomes alongside the responses from Project Integra Strategic Board and HIOWA and report back to the partnership.

Project Integra delivers the highest diversion rate for waste to landfill in the country and the review aims for them to continue to lead the way. NFDC is the only local authority in Hampshire that continues to provide a weekly collection service for refuse and recycling and at a lower cost than others providing a less frequent service. The Council is also only one of six authorities in Hampshire that provides a trade waste collection and one of four that provides a trade waste dry recyclable collection.

The Environment Review Panel discussed the matter at their meeting on 27 January 2011. The Cabinet whilst broadly supporting their comments for submission to Project Integra as this Council's response to the consultation further agree that increased customer satisfaction should be included in target setting as well as costs and value for money. Customer satisfaction levels in the New Forest district are high and it is important to provide a service that maintains that level.

The Cabinet supports the proposed review of the Joint Municipal Waste Strategy to give a more strategic approach and to include a wider perspective of other sectors and an element focussing on trade and commercial waste. Commercial Waste remains a problem which accounts for the majority of landfill.

### **3. PROJECT INTEGRA ACTION PLAN (REPORT C) (MINUTE NO. 70)**

The Project Integra draft annual Action Plan is the mechanism by which the Project Integra Board receives its mandate to work on behalf of the partnership. It also sets out the costs of running the Board and associated joint activities of the partnership.

Authorities can approve the draft Action Plan unreservedly or can approve it subject to a reservation in respect of any particular matter that it has concerns with.

In the light of the ongoing review work, the current draft Action Plan is of a holding nature and will be reviewed further following the outcome of the review. The overall contribution to Project Integra for the Council remains static in 2011/12 at £37,470.

#### ***RECOMMENDED:***

***That the Project Integra Annual Business Plan 2011-2016 as set out in Report C to the Cabinet be approved.***

### **4. RINGWOOD TOWN ACCESS PLAN – SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT (REPORT D) (MINUTE NO. 71)**

The Cabinet has agreed that the Ringwood Town Access Plan Supplementary Planning Document (as set out in Appendix B to Report D to them) be adopted as part of the Local Development Framework for New Forest District (outside the National Park).

The Ringwood Town Access Plan is a strategy which sets out a shared vision for how access to facilities and services within the town can be improved. It is a joint document of Hampshire County Council and New Forest District Council which has been prepared in close cooperation with Ringwood Town Council and the local community.

There are significant issues relating to accessibility within Ringwood and the existing transport infrastructure in the town and a need to mitigate any adverse impact associated with the planned growth within and adjoining Ringwood. The Town Access Plan represents an achievable contribution to the future viability of Ringwood Town, in terms of both community welfare and economic progress. Whilst the proposed schemes still needed to be individually funded, the Plan will also enable Developers' Contributions, when received, to be directed appropriately.

The Cabinet has also agreed that the Head of Planning and the Principal Engineer (Transportation), both in consultation with the Portfolio Holder and appropriate HCC officers are authorised to make minor editorial changes to the document and amend the proposals to take account of safety audit recommendations and feasibility study conclusions. The addition or amendment of individual proposals has been delegated to the Planning and Transportation Portfolio Holder.

**Cllr B Rickman  
CHAIRMAN**

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