

## NOTICE OF MEETING

**Meeting:** CABINET

**Date and Time:** WEDNESDAY, 2 SEPTEMBER 2015, AT 10.00 AM\*

**Place:** COUNCIL CHAMBER, APPLETREE COURT,  
LYNDHURST

**Telephone enquiries to:** Lyndhurst (023) 8028 5000  
023 8028 5588 - ask for Jan Debnam  
Email: [jan.debnam@nfdc.gov.uk](mailto:jan.debnam@nfdc.gov.uk)

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

\*Members of the public may speak in accordance with the Council's public participation scheme:

- (a) immediately before the meeting starts, on items within the Cabinet's terms of reference which are not on the public agenda; and/or
  - (b) on individual items on the public agenda, when the Chairman calls that item.
- Speeches may not exceed three minutes. Anyone wishing to speak should contact the name and number shown above.

**Dave Yates**  
Chief Executive

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**This Agenda is also available on audio tape, in Braille, large print and digital format**

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## AGENDA

### **Apologies**

#### **1. MINUTES**

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 5 August 2015 as a correct record.

#### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To note any declarations of interest made by members in connection with an agenda item. The nature of the interest must also be specified.

Members are asked to discuss any possible interests with Democratic Services prior to the meeting.

**3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

To note any issues raised during the public participation period.

**4. HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT DEVOLUTION PROPOSAL (Pages 1 - 2)**

To discuss the prospectus that had been prepared for submission to Ministers in support of the bid for devolved powers.

***Please note: All Members of the Council are invited to attend the meeting to participate in the debate.***

**5. TREE AND ECOLOGY SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS (Pages 3 - 4)**

To consider renewing the Service Level Agreements for the New Forest National Park Authority to provide tree and ecology functions for this Authority.

To:

**Councillors**

Mrs S V Beeton  
J E Binns  
Mrs J L Cleary

**Councillors**

E J Heron (Vice-Chairman)  
J D Heron  
B Rickman (Chairman)

## HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT DEVOLUTION PROPOSAL

### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report updates members on the progress made since the devolution proposal for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight was considered by the Cabinet on 5 August 2015 (minute 11 refers). It provides an opportunity to review the prospectus document that is being prepared to support the bid, which is required to be with Government Ministers by 4 September 2015.

### 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Leaders' Group that has been overseeing the preparation of the bid is preparing a prospectus to present the proposal to Ministers. The prospectus is expected to be received by this Authority on Friday 28th August, leaving all the authorities the opportunity for amendment, prior to sign off by the end of 2nd September. The prospectus will be circulated to members electronically in advance of the Cabinet meeting and published on the Council's website. It is understood that there will be a press conference on 4 September to support the submission of the prospectus to the Ministers on that day.
- 2.2 The bids received by Government on 4 September will enter a competitive process and it is therefore essential that the prospectus presents a proposal that addresses the particular needs of the area. In support of the prospectus a further technical annex will be submitted for consideration by Government officials. It is understood that Greg Clark MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, has been positive in his responses so far to the Leader of Hampshire County Council.
- 2.3 Should the Government select Hampshire and the Isle of Wight for the development of a devolved model of government then further, detailed, consideration will need to be given to the full and wider implications of the deal that is on offer. The Council will retain the right to decide whether it wishes to participate in the "agreed deal", as will all the constituent authorities.
- 2.4 At this stage the Cabinet, on behalf of all members, is being asked to sign-off to the broad principles that have been developed so far, without prejudice to the longer term decisions that will need to be made. All Members of the Council are invited to attend the meeting of the Cabinet to participate in the debate.

### 3. PORTFOLIO COMMENTS

- 3.1 In the development of the deal with government we will continue to use our influence to ensure that it is in the best interests of our local community. We will continue to watch the evolving package and there will be further opportunities for our collective input prior to any "deal" being finalised.

#### **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 That the prospectus for submission to Ministers to present the bid for devolved powers for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight be endorsed.

**For further information contact:**

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**Background Papers:**

None

## REPORT TO CABINET – WEDNESDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015

### RENEWAL OF TREE AND ECOLOGY SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS WITH NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In September 2012 Cabinet agreed that the tree service previously carried out by this Council would be provided by the NPA on the basis of a service level agreement. This started on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2012 and was for three years expiring at the end of September 2015.
- 1.2 Shortly prior to this a service for the provision of ecological support had been transferred from Hampshire County Council to the NPA. This has just expired and although the service is continuing a new service level agreement needs to be signed.
- 1.3 The NPA have said that they are happy to continue to provide these two specialist services subject to the service level agreements being renewed.

#### 2. CONSIDERATION

- 2.1 These two shared services have worked well for the past 3 years. Customers have got used to new arrangements, the standards set out in the agreements have been achieved and financial savings have been made by both authorities.
- 2.2 The terms agreed for both agreements are very similar to the original terms. A few changes have been, for example to delete references to TUPE transfers, but the main elements are the same. The drafts of both agreements are available from Chris Elliott, the Head of Planning and Transportation.

#### 3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The cost of the tree service will be £107,000 in the first year and this cannot be increased annually by more than the retail prices index. In 2012, before the transfer, this service cost the District Council £120,000 per year.
- 3.2 The cost of the ecology service will be £10,970 in the first year and this can only be increased by agreement between the parties to reflect inflationary pressures.

#### 4. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There will be no environmental implications because the service levels will remain as they are in original agreements and no problems have arisen in the last 3 years.

#### 5. PORTFOLIO HOLDERS COMMENTS

- 5.1 Councillor Edward Heron says that he has no issues with renewing these SLA's. He is not aware of any adverse comments from Councillors and his own experience is that both are working well.

## **6. CONCLUSIONS**

- 6.1 The provision of these two services under an agreement between the District Council and the National Park Authority has worked well for the last 3 years. Both of the agreements have a clause enabling either party to give notice of withdrawing from them by giving 6 months' notice.
- 6.2 It is recommended that both agreements be renewed for a further 3 years until 2018.

## **7. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 That the Head of Planning and Transportation be authorised, in consultation with the Planning and Transportation Portfolio Holder, to finalise the terms of the aforementioned agreements under which the National Park Authority will be discharging the Council's functions in respect of tree matters and offering advice on ecological issues.

### **For further information**

Chris Elliott  
Head of Planning and Transportation  
023 8028 5345  
Email: [chris.elliott@nfdc.gov.uk](mailto:chris.elliott@nfdc.gov.uk)

### **Background Papers**

None