



**New Forest**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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# Council Meeting Agenda

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**13 April 2015**



# SUMMONS

To All Members of the Council

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the District Council to be held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, APPLETREE COURT, LYNDHURST on Monday, 13 April 2015, at 6.00 pm



**Dave Yates**  
Chief Executive

Appletree Court, Lyndhurst, Hampshire. SO43 7PA  
[www.newforest.gov.uk](http://www.newforest.gov.uk)

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

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## AGENDA

**1. MINUTES** (Pages 1 - 26)

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 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. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**4. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**5. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND CABINET (Pages 27 - 30)**

General Purposes & Licensing Committee

6 March 2015

Cabinet

4 March 2015 and  
1 April 2015 (to follow)

**6. REPORT OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANELS 2014/15 (Pages 31 - 38)**

To receive the annual report of the Overview & Scrutiny Panels.

**7. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 22**

**8. QUESTIONS TO PORTFOLIO HOLDERS UNDER STANDING ORDER 22A**

To ask questions of Portfolio Holders. Questions received will be tabled at the meeting. (Members are reminded that questions must be submitted to the Chief Executive or to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services by not later than noon on Friday 10 April 2015.)

**9. NOMINATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL**

To consider nominations submitted for the offices of Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council for the following municipal year and to make recommendations to the Annual Meeting of the Council on 18 May 2015.

The following nominations have been received from the Conservative Group:

Chairman – Cllr Mrs A J Hoare  
Vice-Chairman – Cllr G C Beck

**10. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS**

To consider any changes to the membership of Committees or Panels that might be proposed by the political groups.

**11. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT**

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23 FEBRUARY 2015

## NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the New Forest District Council held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Monday, 23 February 2015.

- p Cllr Mrs M D Holding – Chairman
- p Cllr Mrs A J Hoare – Vice-Chairman

### Councillors:

- p A R Alvey
- p Mrs D E Andrews
- p G C Beck
- p Mrs S V Beeton
- p Ms R Bellows
- p Mrs S M Bennison
- p J E Binns
- p D A Britton
- p Mrs D M Brooks
- p S J Clarke
- p Mrs J L Cleary
- ap G F Dart
- p S P Davies
- p W H Dow
- p Ms L C Ford
- p R L Frampton
- p A T Glass
- p M R Harris
- p C J Harrison
- p D Harrison
- p E J Heron
- p J D Heron
- ap Mrs P Jackman
- p M J Kendal
- A N G Kilgour
- ap C Lagdon
- p Mrs M E Lewis
- p Mrs P J Lovelace
- B D Lucas

### Councillors:

- p Mrs A E McEvoy
- p Mrs M McLean
- p A D O'Sullivan
- p N S Penman
- p J Penwarden
- p L R Puttock
- p A W Rice
- p B Rickman
- ap W S Rippon-Swaine
- p Mrs M J Robinson
- p Mrs A M Rostand
- p D J Russell
- p R F Scrivens
- ap Miss A Sevier
- p M D Southgate
- p A J Swain
- p M H Thierry
- p A R Tinsley
- p D B Tipp
- p F P Vickers
- p M S Wade
- p S S Wade
- p R A Wappet
- p Mrs C V Ward
- p J G Ward
- p C A Wise
- ap Mrs B M Woodfield
- p P R Woods
- p Mrs P A Wyeth

### Officers Attending:

D Yates, R Jackson, J Mascal, Miss G O'Rourke, Mrs R Rutins and Ms M Stephens.

### 45. MINUTES (PAPER A).

#### RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2014 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**46. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

Cllr Kendal disclosed an interest in Minute 50 (Report of Audit Committee dated 23 January 2015)

Cllr M S Wade disclosed an interest in Minute 50 (Report of General Purposes & Licensing Committee dated 16 January 2015).

Cllrs Miss Bellows and Mrs McLean disclosed interests in Minute 50 (Report of Cabinet dated 4 February 2015, Item 1).

All members of the Council had been granted dispensations to speak and to vote on Minute No. 52, the 2015/16 Council Tax.

**47. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.****Chairman's Activities since last Council meeting**

The Chairman's engagements undertaken since the last meeting of the Council were reported. These included:

- Attending the Brockenhurst Gateway open evening at Brockenhurst College and also a production of 'A Chorus Line'.
- Representing the Council on an official visit to Oakhaven Hospice at Lymington.
- Attending the Lord Mayor of Bournemouth's Charity Christmas lunch at the Cliff House Hotel in Southbourne.
- Drawing a raffle for the Chairman's charities at The Red Lion Inn in Boldre and also at Appletree Court. The Chairman thanked those who had donated and supported the events.
- Attending the Lymington Health and Leisure Centre Aerobics Festive launch and giving the opening speech.
- Attending the Chairman of Havant's Charity Ball on Hayling Island.
- Attending the Copythorne Scout 34 Explorer Expedition on their return from The Gambia.
- Attending the handing over of the Women's Centenary Baton in Brockenhurst followed by a WI lunch in St Saviour's Church Hall, Brockenhurst.
- Attending the Mayor of Bournemouth's Charity Burns Night Dinner held at the Queen's Hotel in Bournemouth.
- Representing the New Forest at the Chairman of Havant's Holocaust Memorial Service held at the Havant Cemetery and also the Holocaust Memorial Service at Winchester Cathedral.
- Representing the New Forest at a visit by HRH The Countess of Wessex to the Stable Family Home Trust in Ringwood.

- Representing the New Forest at the New Forest Veterans' Association Laying of the Standard at the closing of the branch in Ringwood Parish Church and a reception at the Conservative Club afterwards.
- Attending the Mayor of Eastleigh's Barn Dance and Dinner at the 2000 Centre, Hedge End.
- Attending the Seasons of Shine show at Hangar Farm, Totton by the Blackfield Dance Studio Students.
- Attending the Chairman of Hart's Charity Dinner at the Casa Hotel, Yately and also Portsmouth Lord Mayor's Charity Valentines Ball at the Guildhall, Portsmouth.
- Representing the New Forest at the RAF Ibsley Historical Group Service at Ringwood Parish Church.
- Attending the Chairman of Rushmoor's Charity Masquerade Ball at Aldershot
- Attending the Mayor of Fareham's charity lunch in Portchester Parish Hall.

#### **Death of former Councillor Miss Gwen Rickus, CBE**

The Chairman reported with regret the death of former Cllr Miss Gwen Rickus, who served on the Council for the then Bransgore and Sopley ward between 1991 and 1999. She had been Chairman of the then Contracts/Direct Services Contracts Committees for most of her term of office and had also served on the Planning and Transportation and Policy and Resources Committees. The Vice-Chairman, Cllr Mrs Hoare, attended Miss Rickus's funeral, along with Mr Mascall, Executive Director.

#### **Darts World Champion**

The Chairman had the pleasure of reporting that one of the District's residents, Mr Scott Mitchell from Bransgore, had won the World British Darts Organisation's World Championship in January. The Chairman had written to Mr Mitchell to convey the Council's congratulations on his wonderful achievement.

#### **Hampshire Music Education Hub**

The Chairman had the honour to meet with the leaders of the Hampshire Education hub with Mr Divine, Head of Leisure and Employment, at Appletree Court on 5 February. On behalf of the Council, the Chairman had been presented with a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of the Council's partnership, support and dedication to the Hub over their successful first two years.

#### **Forthcoming Charity Fundraising Events**

On Friday 13 March at 7.00pm the Chairman would host a reception and Charity Dinner at the Balmer Lawn Hotel in Brockenhurst. The speaker would be Peter Henley of the BBC Politics Programme and South Today.

On Thursday 19 March at 6.30pm at Elliotts of Lymington the Chairman would host a Fashion Show and Lifestyle evening.

Charity sacks were now available in the reception areas of Appletree Court, Lymington Town Hall, the National Park and from Donna Langfield, for collections

for Oakhaven Hospice. Oakhaven had six shops, including one for children, and were in need of saleable goods and clothing.

The Chairman thanked the Vice-Chairman Cllr Mrs Hoare, for all her help since the last Council meeting.

**48. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

There were none.

**49. BY-ELECTION FOR DISTRICT COUNCIL BRANSGORE & BURLEY WARD – 11 DECEMBER 2014 – REPORT OF THE RETURNING OFFICER (REPORT B).**

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Frampton to the Council.

**RESOLVED:**

That the report be noted.

**50. REPORT OF COMMITTEES AND CABINET.**

**Report of Audit Committee**

Cllr Kendal disclosed an interest in this item as Executive Member for Hampshire County Council. He concluded that there were no issues under common law that prevented him from remaining in the meeting to speak and to vote.

Cllr O'Sullivan, Chairman of the Audit Committee, presented the report of the meeting held on 23 January 2015.

On the motion that the report be received and the recommendation adopted, it was

**RESOLVED:**

That the report be received and the recommendation be adopted.

**Report of General Purposes and Licensing Committee**

Cllr M S Wade disclosed a pecuniary interest in this item as his wife worked for the authority. He did not speak or vote.

Cllr Beck, Chairman of the General Purposes & Licensing Committee, presented the report of the meeting held on 16 January 2015.

On the motion that the report be received and the recommendations adopted, it was

**RESOLVED:**

That the report be received and the recommendations be adopted.



## Reports of Cabinet

The Leader of the Council, as Chairman of the Cabinet, presented the reports of the meetings held on 7 January and 4 February 2015.

### **4 February, Item 1 – Housing Revenue Account Budget and Housing Capital Expenditure Programme 2015/2016**

Cllrs Ms Bellows and Mrs McLean disclosed pecuniary interests in this item on the grounds that they were Council tenants. They took no part in the discussion or voting.

### **4 February, Item 2 – The Medium Term Financial Plan and Annual Budget 2015-2016 & Council Tax 2015/2016**

The Chairman moved that Standing Order 47.6 be suspended to allow the Leader of the Council and the Leaders of the Opposition Groups to exceed the time limit for making their speeches. The motion was seconded and carried.

The Chairman ruled that in accordance with Standing Order 47.11 she would allow more than one amendment to be proposed and discussed at the same time.

The Leader of the Council made the statement on the Administration's proposed budget, attached as Appendix 1 to these minutes.

The Deputy Leader of the Council seconded the recommendation.

The Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group then made a statement (attached as Appendix 2 to these minutes) and moved the following amendments: -

- (1) In order for the New Forest District Council to show its desire for our town centre shops to survive and compete on an even footing, we will make available to all council tax paying residences, one free 3 hour shopper's car park pass for a designated vehicle.
- (2) In order to show all our staff that we value their contribution to the efficient running of the NFDC; we will pay, as a minimum, the hourly rate of the 'Living Wage'.

Cllr M S Wade seconded the amendments.

Members discussed the Cabinet's budget proposals together with the amendments.

The Planning and Transportation Portfolio Holder said that the proposal put forward by the Liberal Democrat Group in relation to parking clocks lacked substance and was impractical. He explained that there were approximately 85,000 households in the District, but only 40,000 had bought parking clocks. As 17% of residents did not own a car and 13% were blue badge holders, giving all households in the District a parking clock did not make financial sense, particularly as parking was inexpensive in the District. Revenue from parking clocks would be lost and in order to balance the books, council tax would have to be raised. He therefore did not support the amendment.

A number of members expressed the view that the amendments proposed by the Liberal Democrat Group were based on unworkable “gimmicks” that had not been thought through. Whilst some members were sympathetic to the proposal that staff should be paid the living wage, they had not been presented with any evidence that a wage rise would offer real term benefits to staff when considering the impact on working tax credits. Members were further concerned of the implications on the pricing of Council services and the consequential financial impact on residents.

Some members expressed the view that the Leader had worked hard to ensure that the Council had a balanced budget and had been able to maintain a 0% Council tax rise for 6 years running. They supported the budget proposals put forward by the Leader of the Council.

The majority of members supporting the Liberal Democrat Group’s amendments were of the view that the budget proposed by the Leader of the Council lacked forethought. The Council had not shown innovation in their projects/work for the benefit of residents or employees. They felt that it was immoral not to pay the living wage to staff.

The Liberal Democrat Group’s amendments were put to the vote. A recorded vote was taken. The outcome of this was:

Amendment 1:	
Members voting for:	5
Members voting against:	46
Abstentions	0

Amendment 2:	
Members voting for:	5
Members voting against:	41
Abstentions	5

Details are shown in Appendices 3 and 4 to these minutes.

The motion was lost.

The substantive motion was put to the vote. A recorded vote was taken. The outcome was:

Members voting for:	47
Members voting against:	4
Abstentions	0

Details are shown in Appendix 5 to these minutes.

The motion was carried.

**RESOLVED:**

That the reports of the Cabinet dated 7 January and 4 February 2015 be received and the recommendations adopted.

**51. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 22.**

Cllr Mrs Bennison asked the Leader of the Council the question set out under Agenda Item 7 regarding the banning of the use or release of sky lanterns from Council owned properties.

The Leader of the Council said that he had asked officers to report to the Cabinet on how a ban on sky lanterns from Council owned or controlled property could be implemented. He had also asked the Chairmen of the General Purposes and Licensing Committee and the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel to establish a joint Task and Finish Group to examine this issue further.

**52. QUESTIONS TO PORTFOLIO HOLDERS UNDER STANDING ORDER 22A.****Question 1:****From: Cllr D Harrison****To: Cllr E Heron, Environment Portfolio Holder**

"Is it necessary for me to chain myself to the Winsor Road toilet block to stop the District Council bulldozing it against the wishes of Totton and Eling Town Council, local businesses and the people I represent?"

**Answer:**

The Portfolio Holder replied that members had had a number of opportunities to put forward their views before a decision had been taken. Cllr D Harrison had not used those opportunities. Having spoken to other Totton Town Council members, there was little concern from their constituents regarding the removal of this toilet block, as there were three other facilities nearby. The decision to remove the Winsor Road facility would stand.

**Question 2:****From: Cllr D Harrison****To: Cllr E Heron, Environment Portfolio Holder**

"There are widespread concerns about plans to construct and operate an Anaerobic Digestion Plant in Marchwood. May I ask that officers be asked to research the impact that similar facilities are having elsewhere in the country, as a means of preparing ourselves for the expected application?"

**Answer:**

The Portfolio Holder replied that Hampshire County Council was the responsible authority for deciding this matter. However the District Council would be consulted. The Portfolio Holder would ask officers to submit a draft response to the consultation to the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel to give members an opportunity to express their views before a response was submitted to HCC.

**Question 3:****From: Cllr D Harrison****To: Cllr Vickers, Planning & Transportation Portfolio Holder**

"A Planning Inspector overturned the decision of New Forest District Council to reject a planning application for development of fast food outlets on the site

currently being used by Ridgeway Car Sales, near Rushington roundabout, Totton. Would you agree with me that this is an affront to the democratic process and support my call for a change in the law that would restrict the ability of Planning Inspectors to do this in future?"

**Answer:**

The Portfolio Holder had sympathy with the question but the current planning appeal process had been followed. The Portfolio Holder was aware that John Hayes, MP, Minister of State for Transport, would issue new planning guidance to address this issue.

**Question 4:**

**From: Cllr M Wade**

**To: Cllr E Heron, Environment Portfolio Holder**

"How many people have been fined by NFDC for allowing their dogs to foul and not picking up the dog's excreta on public highway, verge or land in this council year?"

**Answer:**

The Portfolio Holder confirmed that no fines had been issued in the last 12 months. Proactive patrolling was undertaken by the Dog Warden, but given the wide area of the District and the difficulty in enforcement staff observing offences actually taking place, there had been no fines. The Dog Warden would continue to spend time undertaking patrols but the Portfolio Holder expressed the view that public education to promote responsible dog ownership, also undertaken by the Dog Warden, was more likely to reduce the problem.

**Question 5:**

**From: Cllr Mrs McLean**

**To: Cllr Vickers, Planning & Transportation Portfolio Holder**

"What are the current intentions for the redevelopment of the Racal site on Hardley industrial site?"

**Answer:**

Cllr Wise replied to this question. He said that the Council's aspirations for the site were to create new jobs and support small businesses in the area. The site would be cleared. A member steering group had been established and had researched the needs of the area, and a report would be submitted to the Cabinet and the Council in the near future.

**53. COUNCIL TAX 2015/16 (REPORT C).**

All members of the Council had been granted dispensations to speak and to vote on this matter.

The Council considered the Council Tax for 2015/16.

A recorded vote was taken. The outcome was:

Members voting for:	48
Members voting against:	0

Abstentions 0

Details are shown in Appendix 6 to these minutes.

The motion was carried.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That it be noted that on 8 December 2014 the Council calculated the Council Tax Base for the year 2015/16:
  - (a) for the whole Council area as 69,194.00 [Item T in the formula in Section 31B(1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")]; and
  - (b) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates as in the attached Appendix 3.
2. To calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2015/16 (excluding Parish Precepts) is £10,777,660.
3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2015/16 in accordance with Sections 31A, 31B and 34 to 36 of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992 as amended by the Localism Act 2011: -
  - (a) £143,558,618 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.
  - (b) £127,940,460 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
  - (c) £15,618,158 being the amount by which the aggregate at 10.3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3.3(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B(1) of the Act).
  - (d) £225.72 being the amount at 3.3(c) above (Item R), all divided by the Council Tax Base, Item T (3.1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).
  - (e) £4,840,498 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per the attached Appendix 4).
  - (f) £155.76 being the amount at 3.3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3.3(e) above by Item T (3.1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic

amount of its Council Tax for the year specifically for the District Council. There are no non-parished areas.

(g)

LOCAL COUNCIL AREA	£
ASHURST & COLBURY	184.15
BEAULIEU	171.13
BOLDRE	174.49
BRAMSHAW	172.75
BRANSGORE	202.14
BREAMORE	177.62
BROCKENHURST	187.41
BURLEY	172.87
COPYTHORNE	168.09
DAMERHAM	193.48
DENNY LODGE	187.80
EAST BOLDRE	193.73
ELLINGHAM HARBRIDGE & IBSLEY	187.51
EXBURY & LEPE	196.41
FAWLEY	258.83
FORDINGBRIDGE	238.07
GODSHILL	203.75
HALE	189.12
HORDLE	196.06
HYDE	175.04
HYPHE & DIBDEN	237.16
LYMINGTON & PENNINGTON	251.04
LYNDHURST	204.27
MARCHWOOD	258.11
MARTIN	183.81
MILFORD-ON-SEA	188.98
MINSTEAD	181.86
NETLEY MARSH	175.21
NEW MILTON	208.31
RINGWOOD	243.78
ROCKBOURNE	230.65
SANDLEHEATH	180.37
SOPLEY	224.06
SWAY	187.30
TOTTON & ELING	269.70
WHITSBURY	177.94
WOODGREEN	182.09

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 3.3(f) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at 3.1(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

(h) These are the District plus Town/Parish Council elements only. See below and page 8 for the full amounts of Council Tax.

LOCAL COUNCIL AREA	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
ASHURST & COLBURY	122.76	143.23	163.69	184.15	225.07	266.00	306.91	368.30
BEAULIEU	114.08	133.10	152.11	171.13	209.16	247.19	285.21	342.26
BOLDRE	116.32	135.71	155.10	174.49	213.27	252.05	290.81	348.98
BRAMSHAW	115.16	134.36	153.55	172.75	211.14	249.53	287.91	345.50
BRANSGORE	134.76	157.22	179.68	202.14	247.06	291.98	336.90	404.28
BREAMORE	118.41	138.15	157.88	177.62	217.09	256.57	296.03	355.24
BROCKENHURST	124.94	145.76	166.59	187.41	229.06	270.71	312.35	374.82
BURLEY	115.24	134.45	153.66	172.87	211.29	249.71	288.11	345.74
COPYTHORNE	112.06	130.73	149.41	168.09	205.45	242.80	280.15	336.18
DAMERHAM	128.98	150.48	171.98	193.48	236.48	279.48	322.46	386.96
DENNY LODGE	125.20	146.06	166.93	187.80	229.54	271.27	313.00	375.60
EAST BOLDRE	129.15	150.68	172.20	193.73	236.78	279.84	322.88	387.46
ELLINGHAM HARBRIDGE & IBSLEY	125.00	145.84	166.67	187.51	229.18	270.85	312.51	375.02
EXBURY & LEPE	130.94	152.76	174.59	196.41	240.06	283.71	327.35	392.82
FAWLEY	172.55	201.31	230.07	258.83	316.35	373.87	431.38	517.66
FORDINGBRIDGE	158.71	185.16	211.62	238.07	290.98	343.88	396.78	476.14
GODSHILL	135.83	158.47	181.11	203.75	249.03	294.31	339.58	407.50
HALE	126.08	147.09	168.11	189.12	231.15	273.18	315.20	378.24
HORDLE	130.70	152.49	174.27	196.06	239.63	283.20	326.76	392.12
HYDE	116.69	136.14	155.59	175.04	213.94	252.84	291.73	350.08
HYPHE & DIBDEN	158.10	184.46	210.81	237.16	289.86	342.57	395.26	474.32
LYMINGTON & PENNINGTON	167.36	195.25	223.15	251.04	306.83	362.62	418.40	502.08
LYNDHURST	136.18	158.87	181.57	204.27	249.67	295.06	340.45	408.54
MARCHWOOD	172.07	200.75	229.43	258.11	315.47	372.83	430.18	516.22
MARTIN	122.54	142.96	163.39	183.81	224.66	265.51	306.35	367.62
MILFORD-ON-SEA	125.98	146.98	167.98	188.98	230.98	272.98	314.96	377.96
MINSTEAD	121.24	141.44	161.65	181.86	222.28	262.69	303.10	363.72
NETLEY MARSH	116.80	136.27	155.74	175.21	214.15	253.09	292.01	350.42
NEW MILTON	138.87	162.02	185.16	208.31	254.60	300.90	347.18	416.62
RINGWOOD	162.52	189.60	216.69	243.78	297.96	352.13	406.30	487.56
ROCKBOURNE	153.76	179.39	205.02	230.65	281.91	333.17	384.41	461.30
SANDLEHEATH	120.24	140.29	160.33	180.37	220.45	260.54	300.61	360.74
SOPLEY	149.37	174.27	199.16	224.06	273.85	323.65	373.43	448.12
SWAY	124.86	145.68	166.49	187.30	228.92	270.55	312.16	374.60
TOTTON & ELING	179.80	209.76	239.73	269.70	329.64	389.57	449.50	539.40
WHITSBURY	118.62	138.40	158.17	177.94	217.48	257.03	296.56	355.88
WOODGREEN	121.39	141.62	161.86	182.09	222.56	263.02	303.48	364.18

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 3.3(g) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation Band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

4. That it be noted that Hampshire County Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority have issued precepts for 2015/16 to the Council in accordance with Section

40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in below:

**PRECEPTING AUTHORITY**

PRECEPTING AUTHORITY	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL	691.92	807.24	922.56	1,037.88	1,268.52	1,499.16	1,729.80	2,075.76
POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR HAMPSHIRE AUTHORITY	104.89	122.37	139.85	157.33	192.29	227.25	262.22	314.66
HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY	40.92	47.74	54.56	61.38	75.02	88.66	102.30	122.76
	<u>837.73</u>	<u>977.35</u>	<u>1,116.97</u>	<u>1256.59</u>	<u>1,535.83</u>	<u>1,815.07</u>	<u>2,094.32</u>	<u>2,513.18</u>

5. That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3.3(h) and 3.4 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011), hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2015/16 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings shown on the next page:-



LOCAL COUNCIL AREA	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
ASHURST & COLBURY	960.49	1,120.58	1,280.66	1,440.74	1,760.90	2,081.07	2,401.23	2,881.48
BEAULIEU	951.81	1,110.45	1,269.08	1,427.72	1,744.99	2,062.26	2,379.53	2,855.44
BOLDRE	954.05	1,113.06	1,272.07	1,431.08	1,749.10	2,067.12	2,385.13	2,862.16
BRAMSHAW	952.89	1,111.71	1,270.52	1,429.34	1,746.97	2,064.60	2,382.23	2,858.68
BRANSGORE	972.49	1,134.57	1,296.65	1,458.73	1,782.89	2,107.05	2,431.22	2,917.46
BREAMORE	956.14	1,115.50	1,274.85	1,434.21	1,752.92	2,071.64	2,390.35	2,868.42
BROCKENHURST	962.67	1,123.11	1,283.56	1,444.00	1,764.89	2,085.78	2,406.67	2,888.00
BURLEY	952.97	1,111.80	1,270.63	1,429.46	1,747.12	2,064.78	2,382.43	2,858.92
COPYTHORNE	949.79	1,108.08	1,266.38	1,424.68	1,741.28	2,057.87	2,374.47	2,849.36
DAMERHAM	966.71	1,127.83	1,288.95	1,450.07	1,772.31	2,094.55	2,416.78	2,900.14
DENNY LODGE	962.93	1,123.41	1,283.90	1,444.39	1,765.37	2,086.34	2,407.32	2,888.78
EAST BOLDRE	966.88	1,128.03	1,289.17	1,450.32	1,772.61	2,094.91	2,417.20	2,900.64
ELLINGHAM HARBRIDGE & IBSLEY	962.73	1,123.19	1,283.64	1,444.10	1,765.01	2,085.92	2,406.83	2,888.20
EXBURY & LEPE	968.67	1,130.11	1,291.56	1,453.00	1,775.89	2,098.78	2,421.67	2,906.00
FAWLEY	1,010.28	1,178.66	1,347.04	1,515.42	1,852.18	2,188.94	2,525.70	3,030.84
FORDINGBRIDGE	996.44	1,162.51	1,328.59	1,494.66	1,826.81	2,158.95	2,491.10	2,989.32
GODSHILL	973.56	1,135.82	1,298.08	1,460.34	1,784.86	2,109.38	2,433.90	2,920.68
HALE	963.81	1,124.44	1,285.08	1,445.71	1,766.98	2,088.25	2,409.52	2,891.42
HORDLE	968.43	1,129.84	1,291.24	1,452.65	1,775.46	2,098.27	2,421.08	2,905.30
HYDE	954.42	1,113.49	1,272.56	1,431.63	1,749.77	2,067.91	2,386.05	2,863.26
HYPHE & DIBDEN	995.83	1,161.81	1,327.78	1,493.75	1,825.69	2,157.64	2,489.58	2,987.50
LYMINGTON & PENNINGTON	1,005.09	1,172.60	1,340.12	1,507.63	1,842.66	2,177.69	2,512.72	3,015.26
LYNDHURST	973.91	1,136.22	1,298.54	1,460.86	1,785.50	2,110.13	2,434.77	2,921.72
MARCHWOOD	1,009.80	1,178.10	1,346.40	1,514.70	1,851.30	2,187.90	2,524.50	3,029.40
MARTIN	960.27	1,120.31	1,280.36	1,440.40	1,760.49	2,080.58	2,400.67	2,880.80
MILFORD-ON-SEA	963.71	1,124.33	1,284.95	1,445.57	1,766.81	2,088.05	2,409.28	2,891.14
MINSTEAD	958.97	1,118.79	1,278.62	1,438.45	1,758.11	2,077.76	2,397.42	2,876.90
NETLEY MARSH	954.53	1,113.62	1,272.71	1,431.80	1,749.98	2,068.16	2,386.33	2,863.60
NEW MILTON	976.60	1,139.37	1,302.13	1,464.90	1,790.43	2,115.97	2,441.50	2,929.80
RINGWOOD	1,000.25	1,166.95	1,333.66	1,500.37	1,833.79	2,167.20	2,500.62	3,000.74
ROCKBOURNE	991.49	1,156.74	1,321.99	1,487.24	1,817.74	2,148.24	2,478.73	2,974.48
SANDLEHEATH	957.97	1,117.64	1,277.30	1,436.96	1,756.28	2,075.61	2,394.93	2,873.92
SOPLEY	987.10	1,151.62	1,316.13	1,480.65	1,809.68	2,138.72	2,467.75	2,961.30
SWAY	962.59	1,123.03	1,283.46	1,443.89	1,764.75	2,085.62	2,406.48	2,887.78
TOTTON & ELING	1,017.53	1,187.11	1,356.70	1,526.29	1,865.47	2,204.64	2,543.82	3,052.58
WHITSBURY	956.35	1,115.75	1,275.14	1,434.53	1,753.31	2,072.10	2,390.88	2,869.06
WOODGREEN	959.12	1,118.97	1,278.83	1,438.68	1,758.39	2,078.09	2,397.80	2,877.36

**54. RE-APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS – ALLEGATIONS OF BREACHES OF THE MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT.**

**RESOLVED:**

That Mr David Hewitt and Mr David Nottage be appointed to serve as Independent Persons for the purposes of Section 28(7) of the Localism Act 2011 for a four year period commencing on 8 May 2015.

**55. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS.**

No changes to committees or panels were proposed by the political groups.

CHAIRMAN

(CL230215)

**Attachment:** Minute No. 50 Appendices 1 - 5  
Minute No. 53 Appendix 6

## APPENDIX 1

**Leader of the Council – Budget Speech**

“Weathering the Storm”  
“Growing a more prosperous New Forest”

As this is the last budget speech of the current administration, I want to look both backwards and forward. So there will be two themes this year – “Weathering the storm” and “Growing a more prosperous New Forest”.

Twelve months ago the worst winter storms for decades were battering the Forest. I am proud of how the Council worked with the Police, Fire and Rescue, Military and other organisations to respond to the emergencies themselves. I am also proud of how we have faced the different, but no less difficult tasks of dealing with the aftermath. Again, with the help of partners, we have repaired Hurst Spit, found funding for Rum Walk in Totton, and ensured businesses and households affected received aid and resources. We have also dealt with the most controversial topic arising – how to meet the very different aspirations for Milford sea-front. After listening to all, we have come up with a strategy to re-build quality beach huts on firm foundations, and that is what we will deliver.

Of course, the public sector has faced a financial storm during the whole of our last administration and beyond. We have lost over £3m of Government grant. But, unlike others, we have not moaned or whinged. We have got on with the job, managing our finances well and planning ahead. So there will once again be no surprises in the budget we decide on today. There is no need for last minute gimmicks. Today is just another day in our long running financial strategy. One when we can again deliver what we said we would do in our 2011 manifesto. Council Tax kept down! Quality services maintained! In fact there will be no Council Tax increase for the SIXTH YEAR running.

We know this is not the end of public sector austerity. And we are already preparing for what will face us. But we do so with our finances still in robust shape and with the capacity to invest where there is a good business case which will meet the needs of our community. As usual, I would like to look at the work of our Portfolio Holders and I make no apology for starting with my own. As Leader, I took on the Economy & Tourism portfolio to signal the importance of growing a more prosperous New Forest and it remains a key objective. We will therefore continue to work with the New Forest Business Partnership to support local businesses by delivering a comprehensive event, training and business breakfast programme such as the first ever New Forest Business Expo this June and the annual New Forest Brilliance in Business Awards. It was especially heartening through the Awards Evening to see the number of young entrepreneurs seizing the opportunity to promote their ideas.

Brand New Forest continues to go from strength to strength. Last month we held a large public meeting with over 200 attendees to keep up the pressure and ensure the best possible superfast broadband provision for the benefit of businesses and families alike. There has been a huge increase in this year’s card sales, with nearly 5,000 sold in the first two months enabling even more cardholders to take advantage of over 250 local business offers. Working with Colleges and Employers, we will maintain our role in promoting apprenticeships and take on apprentices ourselves.

Local tourism continues to flourish, and it was fitting that in 2014 the Council’s team should win the Howlett Cup for best local stand in any section at the New Forest Show. Some of you will recall that Johnny Howlett, the Founder of Wellworthys established the Cup in 1955 to support young business talent. He would have appreciated that the theme of the

show was “hands on”, and that this is a theme of our administration too. Also, at the Show, Lady Penelope Cobham, Chairman of Visit England, helped us celebrate 25 years of the New Forest Tourism Association– our most enduring business partnership supporting one of our most important economic sectors. This year we will be working with the Association’s 250 members and the National Park Authority to promote car-free visits from London. This will include a uniquely creative television campaign on Sky TV linked to our newly-built responsive destination website which receives around 6 million page views each year.

As is the case with all the Portfolio Holders – we do not work alone. I am therefore grateful for the work of one of our task and finish groups in getting to grips with the LEPs – Local Enterprise Partnerships. We have done more this year to support local businesses and colleges to get real benefit from the two LEPs which cover our area, and we will seek to do even more in the future.

Businesses and home owners need a clear planning framework which also recognises the importance of our unique environment. I want to thank Paul Vickers and all Councillors and officers involved in steering our Local Plan through to adoption. Many areas still lack such a sound and balanced Plan. We have also begun to work with Towns and Parishes to explore the opportunities of neighbourhood plans. Our last Cabinet meeting saw a very good example of the benefits of these tiers of local government working together. We agreed a programme of schemes for the use of Developers Contributions which provides for over £5m of funding on scores of schemes to benefit local communities.

Housing remains a key priority. I thank Jill Cleary for the work she has done with tenants and officers to ensure we continue to deliver a very good standard of housing at very reasonable rents. A recent comprehensive survey confirmed that satisfaction levels of tenants are high and I value the contribution their representatives make at Cabinet meetings and generally. Our strategy to invest in affordable housing is now really paying off. We will achieve our target of buying 100 former council properties by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015. We are building new homes ourselves in Testwood and New Milton and working with developers to deliver even more in Milford, Ringwood and Bransgore. I must also commend Jill for her work with Community Safety partners to reduce crime and disorder in our District and for overseeing the successful introduction of our 24 hour Community Alarm Service.

And it has been another excellent year for our Health & Leisure Centres, where attendance has risen to an all time high of 1.6 million visits. Overall at any one time there are more than 4,600 young people learning to swim in our centres. In the Lymington Centre alone, the Swim Academy has almost doubled in size in the last three years. Last year we refurbished the swimming pool and changing area at New Milton where income is £59,000 ahead of target. The Sport England Active People Survey shows the district is one of only two in Hampshire (including the three unitary authorities) to show an increase in regular levels of activity and also a reduction in those doing none. Maintaining this theme by working with our sports clubs and the voluntary sector we take over 100 young people, coaches and officials to the annual Hampshire Games.

### **CHARITY MATTERS**

I am pleased to be able to report that not only do to our staff work hard to provide good services they are also prepared to contribute to the community in other ways. During the last year a great many of our Health & Leisure staff have raised over £16,000 on behalf of both national and local charities including Cancer Research UK, British Heart Foundation, and Oakhaven. Our staff at Appletree Court, Lymington Town Hall and the depots have also helped raise over £1,500 for a number of Charities including Save the Children, Macmillan, Help the Heroes and “Jeanes for Genes”.

We and our partners have also been very successful with the Heritage Lottery Fund grants to Ringwood Meeting House Trust and Eling Tide Mill. If the current Lymington Museum Trust bid is successful we will have raised approaching £5m of external investment for these projects in the last four years. My sincere thanks to Di Brooks for all her efforts and achievements.

### **COMMUNITY CLEAR UP DAY**

On Saturday 21 March 2015, the first day of spring, the District Council will be helping all Town and Parish Council's on "community clear up day" by supplying refuse sacks and arranging for their collection. The council will also make available a few litter pickers that it has on first come first served basis. This will help spruce up our town and village high streets, residential and business areas. Everybody please support.

As well as giving me invaluable support as Deputy Leader, grappling with the impact of last winter's floods, Edward Heron has maintained our popular and efficient approach to waste collection. We have kept, and will continue to keep, our commitment to weekly collections and have used the money we were able to bid for because of this to implement a successful household glass re-cycling team throughout our whole area. We will look to build on this sensible re-cycling service in later years.

Working with Colin Wise, Edward is also exploring how we can modernise our depots and improve even further our street cleaning and building services as well as waste collection. I am confident that we will have the necessary funds to make the right investment in this and other areas because of the continuing excellence of Colin Wise's financial stewardship. Aided by Bob Jackson and the rest of the finance team, Colin has ensured that we plan prudently, control robustly and invest well and wisely. The approach to managing the introduction of the new business rates system referred to in the budget papers is just an example of this. Working with John Mascall and the Asset Management group, Colin has made sure we get the most from our assets. In the last two years alone, the Council has brought in over £2.5m from the sale of surplus assets such as Ringwood offices and cottages at Dibden Golf Centre. Money we can invest for the good of our communities.

I mentioned the role of task and finish groups earlier and I would again thank all Councillors involved in overview and scrutiny and regulatory activities. I would draw special attention to the work of the Budget Task and Finish group. My Cabinet colleagues do not always look forward to our annual grilling, but enjoy the sessions when we get there, and are convinced that they play an important role in keeping us on our toes.

It is all part of being an open, transparent as well as effective Council. This also involves using new technology and new opportunities through social media to communicate and interact with our public. We are making good strides here and will look to do much more. I know it is a key theme of the "Fit for the Future" programme that our senior managers are exploring.

A reason for this Council's success is Councillors and Officers working together. I would like to pay tribute to two of our colleagues who have sadly met untimely deaths in recent months. Andy Bradbury occupied a truly unique position as a senior manager here as well as a coastal scientist of national and international repute. I believe it is fitting that we name our new committee room in his honour. This Council and Bransgore Parish Council will very much miss the humour and dedication of Anne Hickman.

Historical events have been a feature of the past twelve months. We have remembered the Immortal 7<sup>th</sup> and all those who died giving service in the First World War. We and others welcomed the present Governor of New South Wales commemorating the life of Arthur Phillips, the first Governor who lived at Vernalls Farm. And the Council celebrated its own 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday with the help of Alan Rice and others who were here when NFDC was born.

We have a lot to celebrate in our last 40 years and in the work of this administration, but that work is not done. I am committed to continuing the task of weathering all storms and growing an even more prosperous New Forest. This Budget is another step along that path. I commend it to you.

## APPENDIX 2

**Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group – Budget Speech**

Recap from previous budgets: -

Firstly, it was 2 years ago that I put forward the idea that we should investigate helping those less fortunate than ourselves in the NFDC area, who were sleeping rough and were aged 25 or over. This was seconded by the Leader.

I have been chairing a task and finish group looking into this issue and something that we decided fairly early on was that a permanent hostel would be unsuitable for such a large geographical area such as ours and also the cost of running hostels 24/7 is extremely high and would therefore be difficult in these times of austerity.

So, we decided to contact our local Nightstop which is one of 35 such Nightstops in the country who run an emergency homeless scheme, where 16-24 year olds are housed with local families for short respite periods in order to find a suitable way forward for them. Our local Nightstop agreed to run a trial on the same lines as the existing Nightstop and call it 'Nightstop 25 Plus'.

Nightstop, along with our housing dept. applied to Southampton City Council who were the lead council holding funding of approx. 1/3<sup>rd</sup> million £s as part of government funding for a 'rough sleeper consortium' for central southern England; and at that time no other councils had been given any of this money. Our local Nightstop received £25,000 which incidentally, we are informed, will be used up around October 2015. The reason they have taken so long to reach a satisfactory conclusion to this trial is that they have been observing the outcome of... Nightstop North East, who have been trialling a 25 plus scheme that started in December 2013 and scheduled to run for 12 months. In The North East they had been given £50K to run this trial.

Among the observations that our local Nightstop have taken from this North East trial is that the term 'homeless' has a broad range and in the North East they had a lot of inappropriate referrals, (Remember of course that these clients were going into local volunteers home environments). There were inappropriate referrals like e.g. drug addicts and persons released from prison who were repeat offenders and had no probation monitoring involvement. Also, after this short respite period many of their clients were in fact moved on to hostels, and of course we don't have any. So now, locally, they have trained support workers and they have 13 family households in total in the NFDC area on their books; 5 of which are willing to take over 25's and they expect to launch the 25 plus scheme at the end of March/early April this year. They have told us that they always need more homes in our area.

It should be noted that this is not a permanent solution to sleeping rough but a respite. Also, while the council and other relevant bodies may try to find more permanent solutions after this respite period...some may, indeed, have to return to homelessness. If Nightstop can show success with this local 25 plus scheme, it may be possible to ask the 'rough sleeper consortium' for more funding, if there is any left in the kitty.

Finally, this council is the main financial contributor to our local Nightstop at around £17k a year and it receives nothing from HCC. So later this year when funding is asked for all of the T & F group ask that you look kindly on their request and be as generous as possible to our local Nightstop as the scheme that they run is good value for money.

Secondly, we put forward a proposal to investigate reducing the member size of this council.

This was also seconded by the Leader of the Council. This proposal was investigated by a T & F group who agreed, by majority, that a reduction down from 60 members was appropriate. The Scrutiny Panel also agreed, by majority, on this recommendation. But when this proposal went to full council all the Conservatives voted against it on block. As this proposal brought about an interesting debate for a change with some for and some against, it was extremely disappointing to see the Conservatives not having a free vote on this subject.

This reduction in councillors would have meant considerable financial savings to this council and financial savings such as this would have contributed to our priorities of affordable housing, public toilets, supplementing public transport, green initiatives, economic developments, tackling dog waste and traffic enforcement.  
All council tax paying residences to receive one free 3 hour shoppers car park pass for a designated vehicle.

In December 2014 the council gave a free car parking arrangement for one day in order to support local businesses by encouraging local people to support local shops. If I remember correctly, the leaders statement went something along the lines 'I'd encourage local people to shop locally, this is an important day.' Also, towns and parish councils were invited to designate another free parking day.

So this is saying that local businesses need supporting and indeed all our retailers say that they need more footfall their very survival needs this we have seen to many closures in our local shops. They all say free car parking will make a difference. Remember all the supermarkets have free car parking. My local supermarket is not situated in the town and besides selling all the supermarket goods, it also now takes dry cleaning, shoe repairs, clock and watch repairs, key cutting and engraving all of these activities put about 5 of my town centre shops in jeopardy. All of this with free car parking. I see that this local supermarket has several hundred car parking spaces and I reckon that they must have several thousand vehicle movements a day. You are not allowing our town centre retailers to trade on a level playing field basis and let's not forget that they are paying into the community with their rates contributions.

I have asked local people why they don't visit our town centres and they tell me that they have no reason to and also there are too many non-shops like charity shops and estate agents. Not just my side of the forest, that's what I have been told by residents from the west side as well. Those residents who do not have a clock and only visit the town centres very infrequently may buy a ticket, but my observations are that most park in side streets where there is no charge and consequently cause annoyance and traffic congestion to local residents.

Where we differ from yourselves is that we believe that one or two days a year is not enough....what we need is for locals to have no reason not to shop locally and in order to actively encourage locals to visit our town centres and thereby help their very survival with 'real shops' we are proposing that all council tax paying residences to receive one free 3 hour shoppers car park pass for a designated vehicle. This would be done with no loss of income to the council as the cost of parking by buying a meter ticket at a car park would be increased by approx. 33% so that visitors who come to our beautiful area would pay a bit more just as we do when we visit others beautiful areas. It is a fact that many visitors have commented that our ticket prices are indeed less than they pay in their own areas. So this increase will not affect the number of visitor to our area.

We receive approximately £1.5M a year from ticket sales and approximately £500,000 a year from 3 hour clock sales. This proposal has been fully costed and checked by our officers.



Amendment Number 1. In order for the New Forest District Council to show its desire for our town centre shops to survive and compete on an even footing, we will make available to all council tax paying residences, one free 3 hour shoppers car park pass for a designated vehicle.

We have continually praised our staff and their dedication to the work that they do for the NFDC and yet there are 133 staff out of a total staff of nearly 1300 staff who receive less than the Living Wage. The Living Wage... is calculated annually by an independent body and is calculated according to the basic cost of living in the UK and at present is £7.85 an hour.

The minimum wage for those aged 21 and over is £6.50 an hour.

The Living Wage enjoys cross party support.

Paying the Living Wage is good for business, an independent study examining the business benefits of implementing a Living Wage policy found that more than 80% of employers believe that the Living Wage had enhanced the quality of the work of their staff, while absenteeism had fallen by approximately 25%, ( our absenteeism is presently running at 8.6 days per FTE ).

Good for the individual

75% of employees reported increases in work quality as a result of receiving the Living Wage, and good for society

The causes of poverty are complex and in order to improve lives there should be a package of solutions across policy areas. The Living Wage can be part of the solution.

The Lib Dems have been pushing the Living Wage concept here, at the NFDC, for the last 2 years.

Let's pay our loyal and dedicated staff the Living Wage, let's put our money where our mouth is.

Cost of implementation in wages:- these 133 are equivalent to 62.5 FTE. And the pay panel is estimating £100K including dealing with pay differentials.

Amendment number 2

In order to show all our staff that we value their contribution to the efficient running of the NFDC; we will pay, as a minimum, the hourly rate of the 'Living Wage'.

## APPENDIX 3

**RECORDED VOTE MINUTE NO. 50 – LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP AMENDMENT (1)  
TO ITEM 2 OF THE REPORT OF THE CABINET DATED 4 FEBRUARY 2015**

Votes for	Votes against		Abstentions
Cllr C Harrison	Cllr Alvey	Cllr Penman	
Cllr D Harrison	Cllr Mrs Andrews	Cllr Penwarden	
Cllr Mrs McLean	Cllr Beck	Cllr Puttock	
Cllr M S Wade	Cllr Mrs Beeton	Cllr Rice	
Cllr S S Wade	Cllr Ms Bellows	Cllr Rickman	
	Cllr Mrs Bennison	Cllr Mrs Rostand	
	Cllr Binns	Cllr Russell	
	Cllr Britton	Cllr Scrivens	
	Cllr Mrs Brooks	Cllr Southgate	
	Cllr Clarke	Cllr Swaine	
	Cllr Mrs Cleary	Cllr Thierry	
	Cllr Davies	Cllr Tinsely	
	Cllr Dow	Cllr Tipp	
	Cllr Ford	Cllr Vickers	
	Cllr Frampton	Cllr Wappet	
	Cllr Glass	Cllr Mrs Ward	
	Cllr Harris	Cllr Ward	
	Cllr E Heron	Cllr Wise	
	Cllr J Heron	Cllr Woods	
	Cllr Mrs Hoare	Cllr Mrs Wyeth	
	Cllr Mrs Holding		
	Cllr Kendal		
	Cllr Mrs Lewis		
	Cllr Mrs Lovelace		
	Cllr Mrs McEvoy		
	Cllr O'Sullivan		

**Total:****5****46****0**

## APPENDIX 4

RECORDED VOTE MINUTE NO. 50 – LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP AMENDMENT (2)  
TO ITEM 2 OF THE REPORT OF THE CABINET DATED 4 FEBRUARY 2015

Votes for	Votes against		Abstentions
Cllr C Harrison	Cllr Alvey	Cllr Penman	Cllr Kendal
Cllr D Harrison	Cllr Mrs Andrews	Cllr Penwarden	Cllr Wappet
Cllr Mrs McLean	Cllr Beck	Cllr Puttock	Cllr Mrs Ward
Cllr M S Wade	Cllr Mrs Beeton	Cllr Rice	Cllr Ward
Cllr S S Wade	Cllr Ms Bellows	Cllr Rickman	Cllr Mrs Wyeth
	Cllr Mrs Bennison	Cllr Mrs Rostand	
	Cllr Binns	Cllr Russell	
	Cllr Britton	Cllr Scrivens	
	Cllr Mrs Brooks	Cllr Southgate	
	Cllr Clarke	Cllr Swaine	
	Cllr Mrs Cleary	Cllr Thierry	
	Cllr Davies	Cllr Tinsely	
	Cllr Dow	Cllr Tipp	
	Cllr Ford	Cllr Vickers	
	Cllr Frampton	Cllr Wise	
	Cllr Glass	Cllr Woods	
	Cllr Harris		
	Cllr E Heron		
	Cllr J Heron		
	Cllr Mrs Hoare		
	Cllr Mrs Holding		
	Cllr Mrs Lewis		
	Cllr Mrs Lovelace		
	Cllr Mrs McEvoy		
	Cllr O'Sullivan		

**Total:****5****41****5**

## APPENDIX 5

RECORDED VOTE MINUTE NO. 50 – SUBSTANTIVE MOTION ON ITEM 2 OF THE  
REPORT OF THE CABINET DATED 4 FEBRUARY 2015

Votes For		Votes Against	Abstentions
Cllr Alvey	Cllr Mrs McEvoy	Cllr C Harrison	
Cllr Mrs Andrews	Cllr Mrs McLean	Cllr D Harrison	
Cllr Beck	Cllr O'Sullivan	Cllr M S Wade	
Cllr Mrs Beeton	Cllr Penman	Cllr S S Wade	
Cllr Ms Bellows	Cllr Penwarden		
Cllr Mrs Bennison	Cllr Puttock		
Cllr Binns	Cllr Rice		
Cllr Britton	Cllr Rickman		
Cllr Mrs Brooks	Cllr Mrs Rostand		
Cllr Clarke	Cllr Russell		
Cllr Mrs Cleary	Cllr Scrivens		
Cllr Davies	Cllr Southgate		
Cllr Dow	Cllr Swain		
Cllr Ms Ford	Cllr Thierry		
Cllr Frampton	Cllr Tinsley		
Cllr Glass	Cllr Tipp		
Cllr Harris	Cllr Vickers		
Cllr E Heron	Cllr Wappet		
Cllr J Heron	Cllr Mrs Ward		
Cllr Mrs Holding	Cllr Ward		
Cllr Mrs Hoare	Cllr Wise		
Cllr Kendal	Cllr Woods		
Cllr Mrs Lewis	Cllr Mrs Wyeth		
Cllr Mrs Lovelace			

**Total:****47****4****0**

## APPENDIX 6

## RECORDED VOTE MINUTE NO. 53- THE 2015/16 COUNCIL TAX (REPORT C)

Votes For		Votes Against	Abstentions
Cllr Alvey	Cllr Mrs McEvoy		
Cllr Mrs Andrews	Cllr Mrs McLean		
Cllr Beck	Cllr O'Sullivan		
Cllr Mrs Beeton	Cllr Penman		
Cllr Ms Bellows	Cllr Penwarden		
Cllr Mrs Bennison	Cllr Puttock		
Cllr Binns	Cllr Rice		
Cllr Britton	Cllr Rickman		
Cllr Mrs Brooks	Cllr Mrs Rostand		
Cllr Clarke	Cllr Russell		
Cllr Mrs Cleary	Cllr Scrivens		
Cllr Davies	Cllr Southgate		
Cllr Dow	Cllr Swain		
Cllr Ms Ford	Cllr Thierry		
Cllr Frampton	Cllr Tinsley		
Cllr Glass	Cllr Tipp		
Cllr Harris	Cllr Vickers		
Cllr C Harrison	Cllr M S Wade		
Cllr D Harrison	Cllr S S Wade		
Cllr E Heron	Cllr Wappet		
Cllr J Heron	Cllr Mrs Ward		
Cllr Mrs Holding	Cllr Wise		
Cllr Mrs Hoare	Cllr Mrs Wyeth		
Cllr Mrs Lewis			
Cllr Mrs Lovelace			

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# Agenda Item 5

## REPORT OF GENERAL PURPOSES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

(Meeting held on 6 March 2015)

### 1. FLEXIBLE RETIREMENT (REPORT A) (MINUTE NO. 31)

The Committee has considered a proposed amended policy on flexible retirement which was planned to be effective from 1 May 2015.

Flexible retirement allowed individuals aged 55 and over to make a request to the Council to reduce their hours or grade (by 40%) and draw down their pension. By taking up the reduced hours they also had the option of re-joining the pension scheme.

The current policy had been introduced in 2008 and the aim of the review was to achieve improved management control and aid succession planning, whilst providing flexibility to adapt to changing circumstances.

The Industrial Relations Committee had considered and supported the proposals.

The Committee supported the proposals.

#### **RECOMMENDED:**

***That the proposed amended flexible retirement policy detailed in section 4 of Report A to the Committee be approved and implemented from 1 May 2015.***

**Cllr G C Beck  
Chairman**

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## REPORT OF CABINET

(Meeting held on 4 March 2015)

### 1. **ADOPTION OF REVISED STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (REPORT A) (MINUTE NO. 65)**

Having considered a revised Statement of Community Involvement and, insofar as they are empowered by law, approved it, the Cabinet is recommending the revised Statement for approval by the Council.

The Statement, which is used to guide consultations on planning matters in the District, outside the National Park, has been revised to take account of numerous changes in planning legislation, particularly over the last couple of years, with the National Planning Policy Framework, Localism Act 2011 and the introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy. The draft Statement was subject to a statutory consultation period. The comments received were reported to the Cabinet, together with the Council's response to the points raised. The Cabinet considered that the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service should be added to the list of bodies that should be consulted.

#### **RECOMMENDED:**

***That, insofar as it is empowered to do so by law, the Council approves and adopts the revised Statement of Community Involvement as attached at Appendix 1 to Report A to the Cabinet, subject to the addition of the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service in the list of bodies that should be consulted.***

### 2. **HOME ENERGY CONSERVATION ACT – PROGRESS REPORT 2015 (REPORT B) (MINUTE NO. 66)**

The Cabinet is recommending the approval of the biennial report to the Government on performance in achieving improvements in the energy efficiency of the residential housing stock in the District.

The target for reducing CO<sup>2</sup> emissions across the District was not achieved over the last 3 years, having risen by 3.75% between 2009 and 2012 (the latest available information). This is probably a result of a greater proportion of electricity being generated from coal, rather than gas. This Council does not therefore have any influence over this factor. The per capita domestic CO<sup>2</sup> emissions in this District, although fluctuating, were however the same in 2012 as in 2009. It is therefore proposed to retain the target of achieving a 10% reduction against 2009 levels for overall CO<sup>2</sup> emissions in the District by 2020.

The second key indicator that is measured is the number of households considered to be in fuel poverty. A change in the statistic used to measure fuel poverty, to the Low Income High Cost indicator, has complicated the assessment of performance. Under the old measure, the proportion of households in fuel poverty in this District fell by 27.5% against 2010 levels, to 9.2%, exceeding the target in the last HECA report. This has been warmly welcomed by the Cabinet, as a number of areas of the District face significant challenges from fuel poverty.

This Council has taken part in a number of initiatives, such as Insulate Hampshire and the energy switching promotion, to tackle this issue. The number of households in fuel poverty in this District is below the national average, but above the average for Hampshire as a whole. The Low Income High Cost Indicator classifies 6.6% of households in this District as being in fuel poverty. By directing all initiatives towards the most vulnerable groups it is hoped to achieve a 25% reduction, to 4.95% of households in fuel poverty, by 2020.

The Council has taken a number of pro-active measures with respect to its own buildings. These include the maintenance of its housing stock, with good insulation (including new UPVC windows) and efficient central heating boilers; the installation of solar PV panels on buildings such as Appletree Court, the Town Hall and Health and Leisure Centres; and the construction of the Ringwood Gateway Building to the BREEAM Excellent standard. Local Plan Policies now require all new residential dwellings to meet a minimum of Code Level 4 of the Code for Sustainable Homes, while new commercial buildings should achieve at least a BREEAM Good Standard.

The Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel has considered this report and supports its adoption.

**RECOMMENDED:**

- (a) That the current target of a 10% reduction in domestic CO<sup>2</sup> emissions on 2009 levels by 2020 remain unchanged;**
- (b) That the Low Income High Cost definition for fuel poverty be adopted together with a target of a 25% reduction on 2012 levels by 2020, to 4.95% of households in fuel poverty; and**
- (c) That the Home Energy Conservation Act progress report, as attached at Appendix 1 to Report B to the Cabinet, be formally adopted for submission to Government.**

**3. NATIONAL NON-DOMESTIC RATES – TRANSITIONAL RATE RELIEF 2015/16 AND 2016/17 (REPORT C) (MINUTE NO. 67)**

The Government has asked local authorities to exercise their discretionary powers to allow transitional rate relief to businesses between the expiration of the current national scheme and the carrying out of the next revaluation, which has been delayed from 2015 to 2017. There are only around 35 non-domestic properties in this District that are affected, and the Government has undertaken to cover the cost in full.

**RECOMMENDED:**

***That the National Non-Domestic Rates – Transitional Relief Policy for 2015/16 and 2016/17, as attached as Appendix 1 to Report C to the Cabinet, be approved and adopted.***

**Councillor B Rickman  
CHAIRMAN**



## Annual Report of the Overview & Scrutiny Panels – 2014/15

Welcome to the Annual Scrutiny Report for 2014/15.

Against ongoing financial challenges, the overview and scrutiny panels and task and finish groups have continued with a robust programme of reviews. They have worked on a wide range of focussed and output - driven topics, helping the Council find efficiencies, keep pace with the demands of emerging legislation, and ensuring Council resources are put to best use.

The work has included inward facing tasks concerning the formulation of strategies and budgets, performance monitoring, reviewing processes, and identifying service efficiencies. Outwardly, it has looked at issues such as child poverty, crime and disorder and supporting local businesses, with engagement through mechanisms such the armed forces covenant and the Local Enterprise Partnerships.

The following pages detail some of the activities that have taken place during the year across the Council's three overview and scrutiny panels.

It is anticipated that the Council will continue to face significant financial challenges over the next few years. Thanks go to all those who have been involved in overview and scrutiny over the past 4 years of this administration - partners, the public, members and officers - for their hard work and enthusiasm, which has resulted in positive benefits to the operation of the Council and to local people.

If you would like to see further details of the work of each of the Panels and all of the topics that the Panels have reviewed, please visit the Council's website at [www.newforest.gov.uk/Council and Democracy/Councillors, Democracy and Elections/Committee Documents](http://www.newforest.gov.uk/Council and Democracy/Councillors, Democracy and Elections/Committee Documents).

### Membership of the Overview & Scrutiny Panels

#### Community Overview & Scrutiny Panel

Mrs P Jackman (Ch)  
S P Davies (V/Ch)  
J E Binns  
D A Britton  
Mrs P J Lovelace  
B D Lucas  
Mrs M McLean  
A D O'Sullivan  
N S Penman  
D J Russell

#### Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Panel

J G Ward (Ch)  
Mrs A M Rostand (V/Ch)  
A R Alvey  
M R Harris  
J D Heron  
M J Kendal  
Mrs M J Robinson  
A R Tinsley  
D B Tipp  
Mrs P A Wyeth

#### Environment Overview & Scrutiny Panel

W S Rippon-Swaine (Ch)  
Mrs D E Andrews (V/Ch)  
Mrs S V Beeton  
Ms R Bellows  
Mrs S M Bennison  
S J Clarke  
W H Dow  
A T Glass  
M D Southgate  
M S Wade

If you would like to know more about the work of each of the panels please contact the Committee Administrator below:

Community Overview & Scrutiny Panel –  
[melanie.stephens@nfdc.gov.uk](mailto:melanie.stephens@nfdc.gov.uk)

Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Panel –  
[andy.rogers@nfdc.gov.uk](mailto:andy.rogers@nfdc.gov.uk)

Environment Overview & Scrutiny Panel –  
[jan.debnam@nfdc.gov.uk](mailto:jan.debnam@nfdc.gov.uk)

## **Community Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Responsible for scrutiny of the following portfolios: Housing & Communities Health and Leisure)**

### **Main Reviews 2014/15**

#### **Crime & Disorder**

Members of the Safer New Forest Community Safety Partnership attended a meeting of the Panel to review 2014/15 performance. The Panel heard about the links between crime and wider social issues that affect community safety. They were pleased to hear that overall recorded crime has continued to fall. They questioned partners on how effectively local organisations are working together to address the links between some of the causes and reviewed the priorities being considered for the Community Safety Plan for 2014/15. The Panel identified a number of issues that they will be keen to follow up including arson crime, and victims and perpetrators of crime. These will be reflected in the Panel's work next year. The Panel continues to receive valuable updates from the Council's representative on the Hampshire Police and Crime Panel, on the work of the Crime Panel and the work of the Police & Crime Commissioner and feeds back any areas of concern through him to the Commissioner.

#### **Children & Young People**

The Panel established a Task & Finish Group to examine the levels of child poverty within the District and possible ways the Council could assist to mitigate the effects of child poverty. As part of its research the Task & Finish Group held a workshop session with external practitioners to help them understand the extent and types of child poverty in the District, the services being provided to assist families and young people and the ways in which the Council could improve its services to assist those stakeholders in improving the lives of vulnerable children living within the District. The Task & Finish Group made a number of recommendations to various Portfolio Holders including holding an annual Child Poverty seminar for external providers, which will be taken forward for action. Given the complexity of the subject matter, the Panel felt that the Task & Finish Group should reconvene after the elections in May to examine further issues relating to child poverty.

#### **Community Alarms and Out of Hours**

The Panel has kept a watching brief with the progress of combining of the CCTV and community alarm service. Regular updates have been given on the integration of the community alarms and out of hours functions into the CCTV control room, which had been initiated by the Panel's task and finish group. The Panel are pleased to report that the transition has been successfully completed despite challenges faced by staff in this process. The Panel were also pleased to note that the Out of Hours call handling service had been successfully brought back in-house. The year ahead would see a focus on exploiting the potential of the fully functional 24 hour control room and increasing the scope and responsibility of the business further, including partnership with other authorities where practicable and where capacity allowed. Despite the challenging transition and process of change, the CCTV and Community Alarms team had exceeded all expectations and the Panel looked forward to receiving updates on the future success of the team.

### **Affordable Housing and Housing Building Programme**

The Panel has supported the Council's Housing strategy. It regularly receives reports and verbal updates from the Service and the Housing & Communities Portfolio Holder and asks challenging questions. The Panel is keen to see the continued growth of affordable housing in the District and a reduction in the housing waiting list. The Panel was pleased to hear of the progress being made to increase Council housing stock and hopes that the momentum of pace with house purchases and new builds continues.

### **Nightstop Plus Task & Finish Group**

Following the success of the Task & Finish Group last year in securing funding to pilot a 'Night Stop Plus' scheme, the Group have met to review the progress of this project and were pleased to note that the pilot will begin operation in April 2015. The 'Night Stop Plus' scheme will provide accommodation for older rough sleepers aged 24 years plus. Five hosts have been secured and are prepared to offer accommodation to those needing shelter. The Group will review the progress with the pilot in a few months' time and report back to the Panel.

### **Armed Forces Community Covenant Task & Finish Group**

The Armed Forces Community Covenant has been in place since May 2013 following recommendation from the Armed Forces Community Covenant Task & Finish Group. The Armed Forces Community Covenant is a voluntary statement of mutual support between a civilian community and its local Armed Forces Community. The Task & Finish Group have met this year to review the progress with the covenant and were pleased to note that the covenant was working well. At this meeting the Group determined that in order to ensure that the Council was thoroughly committed to the covenant, an Armed Forces Champion be appointed. Cllr Beck has been appointed to this role and will report back to the Panel as and when necessary.

### **External Scrutiny**

The Panel continues to value the input of key partners and Tenant Representatives as 'critical friends' in scrutinising the work of the Panel and the Council at large. The Tenant Representatives contribution to the work of the Panel is valued, not only by expressing views in debate and sitting on Task & Finish Groups, but also by presenting recommendations to the Panel. The Panel looks forward to continuing working with Tenant Representatives and welcomes great involvement from them.

### **Community Grants**

For the first time, the Panel was engaged in the new approach undertaken by the Council in respect of Community Grants. The Panel reviewed the community grant applications received by the Health and Leisure Portfolio Holder and her initial assessment of each application. The proposed grants were supported. The Panel supported all grants as proposed by the Portfolio Holder. In considering the approach, the Panel expressed the view that the new process for allocating community grants worked well as it gave members the opportunity to express their views and comment before grants were allocated.

**Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Panel**  
**(Responsibility for scrutiny of the following Portfolios:**  
**Leader**  
**Finance and Efficiency)**

**Main Reviews in 2014/15**

**Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP's)**

The LEP's Task and Finish Group was established to review what the needs were within the District and how these interlinked with the priorities and programmes of the respective LEPs, and with local networks.

The Group heard insightful and helpful presentations from Cllr Keith Mans of Hampshire County Council (who is a Board Member of both Solent LEP and Enterprise M3 LEP) and Derek Mather of Brockenhurst College (who was leading on two bids to the respective LEPs). Both presentations helped shape the Group's recommendations.

It was felt to be more effective to focus on particular aspects where there was a strong fit between the priorities of the LEPs and the potential benefit to business and communities in the District. There were other elements, where the Council and other agencies were currently active, that would also fit with the LEP agenda, principally the needs of small businesses; the advancement of superfast broadband and the development of skills in the care and hospitality sectors

After consideration of a schedule of key needs in the District and setting these against the priorities and programmes of the LEPs, the Group brought forward a number of key priorities as a focus for future work.

The Panel wished to encourage the use of New Forest Business Partnership and New Forest Tourism Association as the principal routes to encourage business engagement, including business representation on LEP boards.

The Leader of the Council felt that the approach would ensure the Council was well placed to secure optimum results from the LEPs, to the benefit of the local area. The future of the LEPs under the next Government was as yet unknown but it was likely that the opportunities for growth bids would continue and any transition to other arrangements would take some time to implement.

**New Forest Business Partnership / Brand New Forest**

The Panel received a report on the effectiveness of the New Forest Business Partnership (NFBP) and Brand New Forest (BNF) initiative.

The work programmes of NFBP and BNF were both vitally important in delivering the Council's commitment to supporting the local economy. The NFBP delivered the business-to-business elements of economic support, whilst BNF delivered the business-to-consumer element.

NFBP activities mainly targeted small businesses and NFDC's Employment and Tourism Team's support comprised mainly of the promotion and advertising, organising and sponsoring of events, and work on websites and publications. The initiatives were funded through NFBP member subscriptions.

Currently NFBP had 118 business members and, with an ongoing recruitment drive, hoped to double its membership over the next two years. A short term membership recruitment contractor had been appointed by the Partnership to promote membership. This year's BNF initiative had seen around 5,000 BNF cards now in circulation with 250 business offers. Card sales in 2015 had increased by 300% to date compared to 2014.

The Panel discussed the matter with Mr Rob Dewing, Chairman of New Forest Business Partnership, and Alison Smith, member of Brand New Forest initiative, who were both from the business community.

Mr Dewing felt the NFBP and BNF were a very important part of the local business landscape and the Council's support was very much appreciated. Mrs Smith, a local business owner, spoke in support of the Brand New Forest Card and the way in which it helped her business to succeed.

Mr Dewing was thanked for his work as Chairman of the NFBP over the past 5 years.

An update was received on progress with local Broadband provision and the way in which the Council had worked with providers and local organisations to identify and resolve gaps in provision.

The Panel also noted details of the LEADER Programme, which, with support from New Forest District Council and other partners, successfully submitted a bid for £1.43 million of funding from the EU's Rural Development LEADER Programme 2015 - 2020. This will be used to support the development of small businesses and not-for-profit groups in the rural parts of the New Forest and surrounding areas over the next 5 years.

The Panel suggested that all members be made aware of the good work being undertaken through the NFBP, the BNF initiative, and by the Council, and asked for a future report on the LEADER project. The Panel fully supported the ongoing approach with these initiatives and wished to emphasise the importance of a continued focus on job creation and opportunities, including apprenticeships.

## **Budget**

The Budget Task and Finish Group met a number of times in 2014/15 to consider the budget for 2015/16 and beyond. The Group met with all Portfolio Holders and was pleased to see that Cabinet members had plans in place to meet the needs of services, balanced against pressure on budgets. A number of issues were highlighted to the Cabinet for future monitoring.

## **Community Grants Process**

The Panel has considered proposed changes to the current process for the awarding and scrutiny of annual revenue and capital grants as it appeared to restrict member involvement in the decision - making stage. Officers explained that the process had been varied over recent years and the intention now was to make it as transparent as possible, giving adequate opportunities for members to be involved, whilst being balanced against best use of time. The proposals would allow early involvement of members so that they could see and comment on applications.

Members generally felt the proposals represented a sound basis for future administration of grants, although some expressed the view that more might be done in terms of transparency and simplification of the forms for applicants. Application forms and supporting documentation would now be made available to all members on ForestNet, and members would be given an opportunity to comment. Members requested that they receive an email alert when this information was made available.

The Chairman felt the proposals facilitated a consistent corporate process for all Scrutiny Panels to follow when looking at their own portfolio grants.

### **Equalities and Diversity**

The Panel received an update on developments since the report of the Equalities Task and Finish Group in September 2012. The Panel were reminded that, as a result of the work of the Task and Finish Group, a more streamlined approach to equalities had been achieved, involving a statement of commitment, and a review of the website content. It was noted that there had been 15,000 hits on the Council's equalities pages in the last two years. The Council also liaised with local interest groups on matters such as mobility, and provided translation of Council publications in different languages, and in braille. All staff had been encouraged to undertake an equalities e-learning module.

### **Council Tax Reductions and Discounts**

The Panel considered proposed Council Tax Reduction Scheme and Council Tax Discounts for 2015/16. A Members' Task & Finish Group had carried out a comprehensive review following the first year of operation of the scheme in 2013/14 and recommended a number of changes, effective from 1 April 2014 which had been adopted. No changes were recommended to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme and Council Tax Discounts for 2015/16. The Cabinet endorsed this recommendation.



**Environment Overview & Scrutiny Panel**  
**(Responsible for scrutiny of the following portfolios:**  
**Environment & Planning & Transportation)**

**Main Reviews 2014/15**

**Car Park Ticket Machines**

A task and finish working group worked closely with the officers to identify suppliers of replacement ticket machines for the Council's car parks, and in the evaluation of the products available on the market. After looking at the products available it became obvious that the market for providers of contactless technology was not sufficiently wide and it was consequently decided to delay the purchase for a year to allow this area of technology to develop properly so the Council could be more certain of a reliable product in the longer term.

**Public Conveniences**

A task and finish working group developed priorities for spending on public conveniences in the District having looked at the condition of each building and the usage levels. As a result, one convenience block, where there were severe antisocial behaviour problems, was identified for demolition and return to open space, another block recommended for transfer to the local council, and spending priorities assigned for replacement and refurbishment. The Panel was satisfied that the new modular design of conveniences was very cost effective both for refurbishment of existing buildings that sat well within the local environment, and for reducing the running costs of each building.

**Tree Management Strategies**

Following a detailed review process, through a task and finish working group, the Panel recommended the Cabinet to adopt a Corporate Tree Strategy and Tree Risk Management Strategy. The research which was carried out has established best practice and transferred that into the management of the Council's tree stock. The objective is to manage the Council's trees in a responsible and sustainable manner, to retain a diverse, healthy tree population into the future. The Strategy documents provide a guide to best practice for private landowners, and have also been brought to the attention of town and parish councils to assist in the management of their trees.

**Other items 2014/15**

**Food Safety and Hygiene Service**

The Panel reviewed the Council's performance in introducing the food hygiene rating scheme in the District and the effect that the scheme was having in improving hygiene standards amongst food providers. The Panel was pleased to find that all higher risk premises in the District had been evaluated and, overall, the proportion of premises achieving a standard of generally satisfactory or better is increasing (a rating of 3 or above) – from 86% to 92%. All ratings can be viewed by the public on the Food Standards Agency's website and by a mobile app. More businesses have been encouraged to display their rating stickers. The Council had also successfully bid for funding from the

FSA to provide a mentoring programme to improve hygiene standards at the 22 lowest rated takeaway businesses in the District.

### **Flood and Coastal Risk Management**

A task and finish working group started to evaluate this very complicated area of work. With changes in government funding rules it is important that this Council takes a pro-active approach to ensure that the needs of the District continue to be met.

### **Home Energy Conservation Act – Progress**

The Panel routinely screens the Council's biennial report to government on progress within the District on reducing carbon dioxide emissions and fuel poverty. The Council is performing well in tackling fuel poverty. National power generation trends have increased this District's carbon dioxide emissions, in common with the national trend, although per capita domestic emissions have remained relatively stable. New targets have been recommended through the Cabinet, to the Council.

### **Parking Service Performance**

The Panel was updated on performance in the parking service and welcomed the continuing high level of compliance with the payment of parking charges. Currently only 0.5% of vehicles were parked without paying, possibly reflecting the high proportion of local people that use a parking clock.

### **Regional Coastal Monitoring**

Having evaluated this Council's current leading role, both regionally and nationally, in coastal monitoring, the Panel recommended to the Cabinet, and consequently on to the Council, that this role should continue. The coastal monitoring team is based at the Southampton Oceanography Centre. The work was funded through the Environment Agency, with agreements in place between the participating local authorities that effectively safeguarded the Council's position as the body that took responsibility for the management of the finances. It is hoped that the current arrangements will be continued through new agreements to cover the period to 2021/22.

### **Waste Management**

The Panel examined the Waste Management Strategy for the Council, before commending it to the Portfolio Holder for adoption. The Strategy is now more aligned to this Council's Corporate Plan, as well as the Project Integra Business Plan. The Panel took the opportunity to look at the Council's performance on waste minimisation and recycling – particularly the newly introduced kerbside glass collection service which has now been rolled out across the entire District. The Panel was satisfied that the Council was continuing to perform well, providing a good quality service to local residents, with Council policies managing to go against the national trend of increasing quantities of residual waste being produced.

In association with this work the Panel meets the Chief Executive Officer of Project Integra each year to discuss their performance in waste management across Hampshire County.