

## NOTICE OF MEETING

**Meeting:** ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

**Date and Time:** THURSDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER 2015, AT 2.00 PM\*

**Place:** COMMITTEE ROOM 1, APPLETREE COURT,  
LYNDHURST

**Telephone enquiries to:** Lyndhurst (023) 8028 5000  
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### **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 11 June 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. PORTFOLIO HOLDERS' REPORTS**

To receive any oral updates from the Portfolio Holders for the Environment and for Planning and Transportation.

**5. SKY LANTERNS TASK AND FINISH GROUP (Pages 1 - 4)**

To receive and consider the findings and recommendations of the Sky Lanterns Task and Finish Working Group.

**6. MOVEMENT OF RECYCLABLE MATERIAL ABROAD FOR RECYCLING (Pages 5 - 8)**

To be advised of the current situation with respect to the handling of waste paper for recycling from Hampshire.

**7. DATES OF MEETINGS**

To agree the programme of meetings for 2016/17. The suggested programme is set out below:-

Thursday 9 June 2016

Thursday 15 September 2016

Thursday 10 November 2016

Thursday 12 January 2017

Thursday 9 March 2017

In each case, the meeting to start at 2.00 p.m. and be held in Committee Room 1 at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst.

**8. WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 9 - 10)**

To agree the work programme to guide the Panel's activities over the coming months.

**9. ANY OTHER ITEMS THAT THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT**

To:

**Councillors:**

Mrs F Carpenter (Chairman)  
Ms L C Ford (Vice-Chairman)  
P J Armstrong  
Ms R Bellows  
G R Blunden

**Councillors:**

A T Glass  
J M Olliff-Cooper  
D M S Poole  
W S Rippon-Swaine  
Mrs B J Thorne

## ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL – 10 SEPTEMBER 2015 GENERAL PURPOSES & LICENSING COMMITTEE – 11 SEPTEMBER 2015

### JOINT TASK AND FINISH GROUP – SKY LANTERNS

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 A joint Environment Overview & Scrutiny Panel and General Purposes & Licensing Committee Task & Finish Group was established following a question regarding sky lanterns from Councillor Sue Bennison at the full Council meeting on 23 February 2015. In response to Cllr Bennison's question, the Leader of the Council gave the following response: -

*"I have asked Officers to bring a report to Cabinet on this matter with a view to banning the use or release of Sky Lanterns from land or property in the ownership or direct control of the Council. I have asked Officers to consider how such a ban may be introduced, particularly as to how this would be implemented with regards to the Council's housing stock.*

*In addition I have asked the Chairmen of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel and General Purposes & Licensing Committee to form a joint Task & Finish Group to consider what further measures the Council could take to further discourage the use or release of Sky Lanterns, including the use of conditions when granting licences."*

#### 2. DANGERS POSED BY SKY LANTERNS

- 2.1 The following information is taken from the website of Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service:

*"The dangers of using flying lanterns*

*Whilst flying lanterns are a popular and beautiful sight, the potential damage they can cause is significant:*

- Lighting and launch are mostly in the control of the user, however the actual flight path and destination are usually not – flying times suggested by manufacturers vary from 6 minutes up to 20 minutes with heights claimed to be up to 1 mile*
- There is no guarantee that the fuel cell will be completely out and cooled when the lantern eventually lands – any contact with a flammable surface could start a fire*
- There is evidence of flying lanterns causing serious fires, wasting police time, being mistaken for distress flares, misleading aircraft and killing livestock*
- The risk of these things happening will only increase if more use is made of Chinese lanterns, therefore we do not support their use and would ask you (and event organisers) not to use them."*

- 2.2 In addition to the above dangers, the Task & Finish Group were concerned about the litter caused by sky lanterns, after the flame had extinguished and they fell to the ground.

### **3. THE TASK AND FINISH GROUP**

3.1 Membership of the Task & Finish Group was as follows: -

Councillor Sue Bennison (Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel)  
Councillor Christine Ford (Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel)  
Councillor Bev Thorne (Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel)  
Councillor Len Harris (General Purposes & Licensing Committee)  
Councillor Richard Frampton (General Purposes & Licensing Committee)  
Councillor Neil Tungate (General Purposes & Licensing Committee)

3.2 The group met on 18 August 2015 and held an extensive debate on the options that were available to this Council to address the concerns that had been identified. It was agreed that, for the most part, this Council could act through encouraging event organisers not to release sky lanterns. With respect to the Licensing function, the first step would be to include a statement in the Licensing Policy which is in the process of being updated.

### **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.1 To the Environmental Overview & Scrutiny Panel:

RECOMMENDED:

That insofar as it relates to their terms of reference, the actions set out in Appendix 1 be recommended to the relevant Portfolio Holders for approval.

4.2 To the General Purposes & Licensing Committee

RECOMMENDED:

That those actions set out in Appendix 1 that relate to the Licensing Act 2003 be approved.

**For further information please contact:**

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Legal Services  
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**Background Papers:**

None

**AMENDMENT TO STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY**

The Council's Statement of Licensing Policy sets out the principles exercised by the Council when carrying out its functions as a Licensing Authority under the Licensing Act 2003. The Council's existing Statement of Licensing Policy will expire on 6 January 2015. A public consultation on the new Statement of Licensing Policy, to take effect from 7 January 2016, has recently closed.

The Task & Finish Group recommends that the Council include in its Statement of Licensing Policy a clear statement that the Council does not support the use or release of sky lanterns from licensed premises. The Council, as Licensing Authority, should have regard to its Statement of Licensing Policy when deciding whether to grant or vary a premises licence or club premises certificate under the Licensing Act 2003. Should an application be received which suggests that sky lanterns are likely to be released from the premises, and should an objection be received in relation to that application, the Licensing Authority, with reference to the Statement of Licensing Policy, can determine whether it is appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives to include a condition on the licence prohibiting the use or release of sky lanterns from the premises.

Draft amendments to the Statement of Licensing Policy, including a provision regarding sky lanterns, is included in the Licensing Officer's report to the General Purposes and Licensing Committee.

**CORPORATE/COUNCIL-OWNED LAND**

The Task & Finish Group concluded that the following actions should be taken in relation to land owned by the Council: -

New leases/hiring agreements	All new leases and hiring agreements will include a clause specifically prohibiting the use/release of sky lanterns from Council land
Land currently leased to Town & Parish Councils	Where a Town or Parish Council lease land owned by New Forest District Council, they will be asked to sign up to a voluntary 'code of practice', agreeing that sky lanterns will not be released from the land. A letter will be sent to all Town and Parish Councils informing them of New Forest District Council's position on sky lanterns, discouraging their use and requesting support on this issue. The Council's Solicitor will draft the letter to Town and Parish

	Councils, for agreement by the Task & Finish Group prior to sending.
Council residential tenants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A full editorial, setting out the dangers and risks of sky lanterns and the Council's position, should be featured in the Hometalk magazine. The Council's resident involvement team will be requested to examine this action point.</li> <li>• The Council's position on sky lanterns will be included in the next Tenants' Handbook, when it is published.</li> </ul>
Communications	It is intended that approaches will be made to the New Forest National Park Authority and the Forestry Commission, exploring the potential for a joint communications strategy on the subject of the dangers posed by sky lanterns.

## ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL – 10 SEPTEMBER 2015

### MOVEMENT OF RECYCLABLE MATERIAL ABROAD FOR REPROCESSING

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to provide information in response to the recent local and national press interest that some of Hampshire's recyclable material is being shipped abroad for reprocessing.
- 1.2 It is important to provide some context and to explain the responsibilities of the interested parties which is detailed as follows:
  - New Forest District Council acts as the authority for the collection of waste and recycling in the District.
  - Hampshire County Council's responsibility is to facilitate the disposal or recycling of this waste which is collected by New Forest and other authorities, which is through a contract with Veolia.
  - The contract requires Veolia to be responsible for the processing of waste for Hampshire and sourcing onward markets for recyclable material.

#### 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In February 2015, one of the UK's largest paper mills (Aylesford Newsprint, Kent) entered administration as a result of economic factors. This paper mill sourced recyclable material from a large number of Councils in the UK including Hampshire. Since the sudden closure of this plant, all suppliers to Aylesford were left to source, at short notice, alternative outlets for the reprocessing of their collected paper.
- 2.2 To carefully manage the situation, Veolia continues to secure reprocessing capacity at other paper mills within the UK for Hampshire's collected paper. Currently these mills are over saturated by supply and therefore alternative reprocessing facilities have to be found to ensure Hampshire's paper continues to be recycled. Opportunities have presented themselves through strong demand from global markets, in particular China, to supply quality paper for reprocessing.
- 2.3 Veolia has since capitalised on this opportunity and some of Hampshire's collected paper is being transferred to China for recycling.
- 2.5 Historically, the global movement of recyclables to other parts of the world is not uncommon and the transfer of full containers back to the Far East, which would otherwise be empty, improves productivity and reduces carbon output.
- 2.6 It is also important to note that all exports from the UK to other countries is closely controlled through the Environment Agency and a full audit trail is recorded to ensure the material is correctly and responsibly reprocessed.

### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 The waste and recycling budgets are offset, in part, through the sale of paper as well as other recyclable materials which are collected within the District. This payment mechanism is administered by Project Integra for all collection and Unitary Authorities in Hampshire. New Forest DC receives a share of this income which is governed by the market price and this market price changes due to influencing factors such as fuel costs, supply and demand of material as well as the number of reprocessing facilities available.
- 3.2 During January to March 2015, the market price for paper dipped due to the closure of Aylesford paper mill and the market was subsequently saturated with this material. This situation was not isolated to Hampshire, the majority of public and private operators in the UK were faced with the same difficulty of finding reprocessing space for their material at the best available price. As an immediate result of this closure, New Forest DC income per tonne reduced to £24.02 for recyclable materials including paper, compared with £34.97 before the closure of Aylesford News Print
- 3.3 Since Veolia have sourced an outlet for the reprocessing of paper in China, the income that we are receiving has increased to £31.48 per tonne in April to June. Although this is extremely positive, there is still uncertainty in regards to the recyclable markets going forward, however this is not dissimilar to other economic markets which are equally volatile.
- 3.4 The required recycling income in order to meet the set budgets must be £37.98 per tonne. Current forecasts indicate that if we continue to receive £31.48 per tonne, then the likely budget shortfall will be in the region of £65k for all collect recyclables (the majority, approximately 60%, of the tonnage is paper) against a projected income budget for all recyclable materials of £392k.

### **4. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 None

### **5. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Any increase in the carbon footprint through sending this material to China is being mitigated as containers which would normally return empty and being utilised

### **6. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS AND DIVERSITY**

- 6.1 There are no equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

### **7. CONCLUSION**

- 7.1 Although the ideal situation would be to reprocess all collected paper material within the UK, there is simply not enough capacity within the domestic paper mill sector to fulfil this demand. Therefore the only option available is to move this material further afield to a customer that requires this product.
- 7.2 Veolia and Hampshire County Council continue to closely monitor and seek options to divert more material to UK mills when the opportunities arise.



- 7.3 It is important to note that there is no adverse impact on the type of recyclable materials that New Forest District Council currently collects. Furthermore, residents are encouraged to continue to recycle as much as possible through the clear sack system.
- 7.4 The income for the sale of recyclable material has increased due to Veolia sourcing a reprocessor in China. Although this is positive news, the income is lower than expected which could lead to a shortfall of £65k within the waste and recycling budgets. This income level will be closely monitored over the next three months and if a shortfall is identified then this will be reported.

## **8. RECOMMENDATION**

- 8.1 It is recommended that the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel note the report

### **For further information please contact:**

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### **Background Papers:**

None

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## ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL – 10 SEPTEMBER 2015

### WORK PROGRAMME

<b>10 September 2015</b>
Paper Recycling (CR and Project Integra)
Report of Sky Lanterns Task and Finish Group (LC)
<b>Date late September/Early October to be agreed</b>
Coach tour of Planning sites. (CJE)
<b>Date October/November to be agreed</b>
Tour of Project Integra Sites (CR)
<b>12 November 2015</b>
Planning Policy Update
Food Hygiene Rating Scheme – progress and performance report (SS)
Possibly initiate review of parking standards for residential development (CJE)
Report of Coastal Funding Task and Finish Group
<b>14 January 2016</b>
Project Integra Annual Performance Review (CR)
Nuisance – Policy on investigations and enforcement (joint with Community Panel) (AR/CG/CR)
Planning Policy Update(CJE)
Review of Land Drainage Function (GB)
<b>17 FEBRUARY 2016</b>
Visit to Southampton Oceanography Centre (GB and SC)
<b>10 March 2016</b>
Planning Policy Update (CJE)
<b>9 June 2016</b>
Planning Policy Update (CJE)
<b>15 September 2016</b>
Planning Policy Update (CJE)

<b>10 November 2016</b>
Planning Policy Update (CJE)
<b>January 2017</b>
HECA Biannual report. (GB)
Planning Policy Update (CJE)
<b>Not possible to timetable yet</b>
Report of Kerbside Glass Collection Group on text messaging alerts and promotion (CR)
Report of Cemeteries - spaces/capacity/supply – group (CR)
Appoint Cemeteries Regulations Review Task and Finish Working Group (CR)
Report of Car Park Meters/Payment Options Working Group (CR)
Appoint Task and Finish Working Group to work on the Council's waste Management Strategy (CR)
Project Integra – Review of materials/plastics collected for Recycling (CR)
Implications of Regulations for Litter Picking on roads (CR)
Evaluation of effect of Council's Tree Management Strategy documents (CR)
Appoint task and finish group to look at fuel/emission efficient vehicles for the Council's fleet. (CR)
Flytipping – report on policy for complaints/ enforcement and priority assigned to it (CR and AR)
Traffic Management Service (post HCC decisions on funding etc) (CE)

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**Background Papers:**

None