



New Forest
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council Meeting Agenda

10 April 2017



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, 10 April 2017, at 6.30 pm



Bob Jackson
Chief Executive

Appletree Court, Lyndhurst, Hampshire. SO43 7PA
www.newforest.gov.uk

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

AGENDA

Apologies

1. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 22)

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 20 February 2017 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. REPORT OF AUDIT COMMITTEE (Pages 23 - 32)

To consider the report of the Audit Committee dated 24 March 2017.

6. REPORT OF THE CABINET

To consider the report of the Cabinet dated 5 April 2017 (to follow).

7. REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANELS 2016/17 (Pages 33 - 42)

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

8. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 22

9. 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 Executive Head of Governance and Regulation by not later than noon on Friday 7 April 2017.)

10. NOMINATIONS FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN

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 15 May 2017.

The following nominations have been received from the Conservative Group:

Chairman – Cllr Mrs C V Ward

Vice-Chairman – Cllr M J Kendal

11. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS

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

12. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

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Agenda Item 1

20 FEBRUARY 2017

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the New Forest District Council held in the Council Chamber, Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Monday, 20 February 2017

* Cllr G C Beck (Chairman)

* Cllr Mrs C V Ward (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors:

A R Alvey
* Mrs D E Andrews
* W G Andrews
* P J Armstrong
Mrs S V Beeton
* Ms R Bellows
* Mrs S M Bennison
* J E Binns
* G R Blunden
* D A Britton
* Mrs D M Brooks
* Mrs F Carpenter
* Mrs L D Cerasoli
* S J Clarke
* Mrs J L Cleary
* I C Coombes
* Ms K V Crisell
* S P Davies
* A H G Davis
W H Dow
* Ms L C Ford
* R L Frampton
* A T Glass
* L E Harris
* M R Harris
* D Harrison
* J D Heron
* E J Heron
* Mrs A J Hoare

Councillors:

* Mrs M D Holding
Mrs P Jackman
* M J Kendal
* Mrs E L Lane
* Mrs P J Lovelace
* B D Lucas
* Mrs A E McEvoy
* A D O'Sullivan
J M Olliff-Cooper
* N S Penman
* A K Penson
* D M S Poole
* L R Puttock
* B Rickman
W S Rippon-Swaine
* Mrs A M Rostand
* D J Russell
* Miss A Sevier
* M A Steele
* M H Thierry
* Mrs B J Thorne
* D B Tipp
* D N Tungate
A S Wade
* R A Wappet
* J G Ward
* M L White
* C A Wise
* Mrs P A Wyeth

*Present

Officers Attending:

R Jackson, Miss G O'Rourke, C Read, Mrs R Rutins and Ms M Stephens

Apologies:

Cllrs Alvey, Mrs Beeton, Blunden, Dow, Mrs Rostand, Olliff-Cooper, Rippon-Swaine, and Wade.

45 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2016 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

46 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Ms Bellows in Minute 51, item 4 of the Report of Cabinet dated 1 February 2017.

Cllrs Mrs and B Andrews in Minute 56, Report of the Planning Development Control Committee dated 8 February 2017.

All members of the Council had been granted dispensations to speak and to vote on Minute No. 54, the 2017/18 Council Tax.

47 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman's activities since the last Council meeting had been listed in the latest information bulletin.

Chairman's Charity Dinner

On Saturday 11 February the Chairman had hosted his Charity Dinner at Hoburne Bashley. The event had raised over £3,500 which would go towards the Chairman's chosen charities. The Chairman thanked all those who had attended and officers for their support, in particular Donna Langfield.

The Chairman reminded members that in accordance with the law, recorded votes would be taken under the budget items.

48 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

49 REPORT OF AUDIT COMMITTEE

Cllr O'Sullivan, Chairman of the Audit Committee, presented the report of the meeting held on 27 January 2017.

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.

50 REPORT OF GENERAL PURPOSES & LICENSING COMMITTEE

Cllr Clarke, Chairman of the General Purposes & Licensing Committee, presented the report of the meeting held on 13 January 2017.

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.

51 REPORTS OF CABINET

Cllr Ms Bellows disclosed a pecuniary interest in item 4 of the report of the Cabinet dated 1 February, on the grounds that she was a Council tenant. There was no discussion on this item. She did not vote.

The Leader of the Council, as Chairman of the Cabinet, presented the reports of the meetings held on 4 January, 1 February and 20 February 2017.

1 February 2017, Item 2 – Community Grants

Cllr Binns thanked the members of the Community Grants Task & Finish Group and the officers involved for the thorough work they had done in bringing forward recommendations to the Cabinet. The Council now had a robust and transparent grants system.

1 February 2017, Item 3 – The Medium Term Financial Plan and Annual Budget 2017/18

The Chairman moved that Standing Order 47.6 be suspended to allow the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition 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 he 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 the statement attached as Appendix 2 to these minutes.

Members discussed the Cabinet's budget proposals together with the Liberal Democrat Leader's speech.

Some members expressed the view that as the Liberal Democrat Leader had not sought to offer an alternative budget the statements made in his speech could not be substantiated. The budget recommended by the Cabinet ensured that front line Council services would be maintained. The Council would continue to meet corporate priorities, such as delivering affordable housing. The Housing and Communities Portfolio Holder pointed out that this Council was one of only two councils in the country to start a programme of purchasing and building new housing.

The Deputy Leader of the Council expressed the view that the recommended small increase of £3 per week in Council tax that for band D properties, would be acceptable to residents as it meant that valued services would continue to be delivered. Other members spoke in support of the budget.

The Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group expressed disappointment that the points raised by him, particularly regarding unnecessary spending by the Council, had not been taken on board.

The Leader of the Council commended the budget to the Council for approval.

A recorded vote was taken on the Cabinet's proposed budget. The outcome was:

Members voting for: 50
Members voting against: 1
Abstentions: 0

Details are shown in Appendix 3 to these minutes.

The motion was carried.

RESOLVED:

That the reports of the Cabinet dated 4 January, 1 February and 20 February 2017 be received and the recommendations adopted.

52 QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 22

There were none.

53 QUESTIONS TO PORTFOLIO HOLDERS UNDER STANDING ORDER 22A

There were none.

54 COUNCIL TAX 2017/2018

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

The Council considered the Council Tax for 2017/18.

A recorded vote was taken on the recommendation.

The outcome was:

Members voting for: 50
Members voting against: 1
Abstentions 0

Details are shown in Appendix 4 to these minutes.

The motion was carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That it be noted that on 4 January 2017 the Council calculated the Council Tax Base for the year 2017/18:
 - (a) for the whole Council area as 70,155.20 [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.
2. To calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2017/18 (excluding Parish Precepts) is £11,460,550.
3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2017/18 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) £141,641,781 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) £124,712,010 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
 - (c) £16,929,771 being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 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) £241.32 being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by the Council Tax Base, Item T (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) £5,469,221 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
 - (f) £163.36 being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by Item T (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	197.52
BEAULIEU	179.01
BOLDRE	187.88
BRAMSHAW	182.94
BRANSGORE	216.14
BREAMORE	187.64
BROCKENHURST	205.85
BURLEY	180.62
COPYTHORNE	177.44
DAMERHAM	201.12
DENNY LODGE	198.10
EAST BOLDRE	202.60
ELLINGHAM HARBRIDGE & IBSLEY	195.02
EXBURY & LEPE	163.36
FAWLEY	276.65
FORDINGBRIDGE	249.82
GODSHILL	210.18
HALE	200.12
HORDLE	204.79
HYDE	181.53
HYPHE & DIBDEN	257.75
LYMINGTON & PENNINGTON	263.83
LYNDHURST	214.59
MARCHWOOD	275.59
MARTIN	193.09
MILFORD-ON-SEA	198.86
MINSTEAD	190.64
NETLEY MARSH	184.45
NEW MILTON	232.24
RINGWOOD	252.96
ROCKBOURNE	238.98
SANDLEHEATH	188.89
SOPLEY	235.01
SWAY	198.86
TOTTON & ELING	288.77
WHITSBURY	181.09
WOODGREEN	193.16

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 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 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 for the full amounts of Council Tax.

LOCAL COUNCIL AREA	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
ASHURST & COLBURY	131.68	153.63	175.57	197.52	241.41	285.31	329.20	395.04
BEAULIEU	119.34	139.23	159.11	179.01	218.79	258.57	298.35	358.02
BOLDRE	125.25	146.13	167.00	187.88	229.63	271.38	313.13	375.76
BRAMSHAW	121.96	142.29	162.61	182.94	223.59	264.25	304.90	365.88
BRANSGORE	144.09	168.11	192.12	216.14	264.17	312.20	360.23	432.28
BREAMORE	125.09	145.95	166.78	187.64	229.33	271.04	312.73	375.28
BROCKENHURST	137.23	160.11	182.97	205.85	251.59	297.34	343.08	411.70
BURLEY	120.41	140.49	160.54	180.62	220.75	260.90	301.03	361.24
COPYTHORNE	118.29	138.01	157.72	177.44	216.87	256.30	295.73	354.88
DAMERHAM	134.08	156.43	178.77	201.12	245.81	290.51	335.20	402.24
DENNY LODGE	132.06	154.08	176.08	198.10	242.12	286.15	330.16	396.20
EAST BOLDRE	135.06	157.58	180.08	202.60	247.62	292.65	337.66	405.20
ELLINGHAM HARBRIDGE & IBSLEY	130.01	151.69	173.34	195.02	238.35	281.70	325.03	390.04
EXBURY & LEPE	108.90	127.06	145.20	163.36	199.66	235.97	272.26	326.72
FAWLEY	184.43	215.18	245.90	276.65	338.12	399.61	461.08	553.30
FORDINGBRIDGE	166.54	194.31	222.05	249.82	305.33	360.85	416.36	499.64
GODSHILL	140.12	163.48	186.82	210.18	256.88	303.59	350.30	420.36
HALE	133.41	155.65	177.88	200.12	244.59	289.06	333.53	400.24
HORDLE	136.52	159.29	182.03	204.79	250.29	295.81	341.31	409.58
HYDE	121.02	141.19	161.35	181.53	221.87	262.21	302.55	363.06
HYTHE & DIBDEN	171.83	200.48	229.10	257.75	315.02	372.31	429.58	515.50
LYMINGTON & PENNINGTON	175.88	205.21	234.51	263.83	322.45	381.09	439.71	527.66
LYNDHURST	143.06	166.91	190.74	214.59	262.27	309.96	357.65	429.18
MARCHWOOD	183.72	214.35	244.96	275.59	336.83	398.08	459.31	551.18
MARTIN	128.72	150.19	171.63	193.09	235.99	278.91	321.81	386.18
MILFORD-ON-SEA	132.57	154.67	176.76	198.86	243.05	287.24	331.43	397.72
MINSTEAD	127.09	148.28	169.45	190.64	233.00	275.37	317.73	381.28
NETLEY MARSH	122.96	143.47	163.95	184.45	225.43	266.43	307.41	368.90
NEW MILTON	154.82	180.64	206.43	232.24	283.84	335.46	387.06	464.48
RINGWOOD	168.64	196.75	224.85	252.96	309.17	365.39	421.60	505.92
ROCKBOURNE	159.32	185.88	212.42	238.98	292.08	345.19	398.30	477.96
SANDLEHEATH	125.92	146.92	167.89	188.89	230.86	272.84	314.81	377.78
SOPLEY	156.67	182.79	208.89	235.01	287.23	339.46	391.68	470.02
SWAY	132.57	154.67	176.76	198.86	243.05	287.24	331.43	397.72
TOTTON & ELING	192.51	224.60	256.68	288.77	352.94	417.11	481.28	577.54
WHITSBURY	120.72	140.85	160.96	181.09	221.33	261.58	301.81	362.18
WOODGREEN	128.77	150.24	171.69	193.16	236.08	279.01	321.93	386.32

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 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 2017/18 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 below:

PRECEPTING AUTHORITY

PRECEPTING AUTHORITY	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL	755.40	881.30	1,007.20	1,133.10	1,384.90	1,636.70	1,888.50	2,266.20
POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR HAMPSHIRE AUTHORITY	110.31	128.69	147.08	165.46	202.23	239.00	275.77	330.92
HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY	42.56	49.65	56.75	63.84	78.03	92.21	106.40	127.68
	<u>908.27</u>	<u>1,059.64</u>	<u>1,211.03</u>	<u>1,362.40</u>	<u>1,665.16</u>	<u>1,967.91</u>	<u>2,270.67</u>	<u>2,724.80</u>

5. That the Section 151 Officer be given delegated authority to implement any variation to the overall level of Council Tax arising from the final notification of the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority precept.
6. That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3(h) and 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 2017/18 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	1,039.95	1,213.27	1,386.60	1,559.92	1,906.57	2,253.22	2,599.87	3,119.84
BEAULIEU	1,027.61	1,198.87	1,370.14	1,541.41	1,883.95	2,226.48	2,569.02	3,082.82
BOLDRE	1,033.52	1,205.77	1,378.03	1,550.28	1,894.79	2,239.29	2,583.80	3,100.56
BRAMSHAW	1,030.23	1,201.93	1,373.64	1,545.34	1,888.75	2,232.16	2,575.57	3,090.68
BRANSGORE	1,052.36	1,227.75	1,403.15	1,578.54	1,929.33	2,280.11	2,630.90	3,157.08
BREAMORE	1,033.36	1,205.59	1,377.81	1,550.04	1,894.49	2,238.95	2,583.40	3,100.08
BROCKENHURST	1,045.50	1,219.75	1,394.00	1,568.25	1,916.75	2,265.25	2,613.75	3,136.50
BURLEY	1,028.68	1,200.13	1,371.57	1,543.02	1,885.91	2,228.81	2,571.70	3,086.04
COPYTHORNE	1,026.56	1,197.65	1,368.75	1,539.84	1,882.03	2,224.21	2,566.40	3,079.68
DAMERHAM	1,042.35	1,216.07	1,389.80	1,563.52	1,910.97	2,258.42	2,605.87	3,127.04
DENNY LODGE	1,040.33	1,213.72	1,387.11	1,560.50	1,907.28	2,254.06	2,600.83	3,121.00
EAST BOLDRE	1,043.33	1,217.22	1,391.11	1,565.00	1,912.78	2,260.56	2,608.33	3,130.00
ELLINGHAM HARBRIDGE & IBSLEY	1,038.28	1,211.33	1,384.37	1,557.42	1,903.51	2,249.61	2,595.70	3,114.84
EXBURY & LEPE	1,017.17	1,186.70	1,356.23	1,525.76	1,864.82	2,203.88	2,542.93	3,051.52
FAWLEY	1,092.70	1,274.82	1,456.93	1,639.05	2,003.28	2,367.52	2,731.75	3,278.10
FORDINGBRIDGE	1,074.81	1,253.95	1,433.08	1,612.22	1,970.49	2,328.76	2,687.03	3,224.44
GODSHILL	1,048.39	1,223.12	1,397.85	1,572.58	1,922.04	2,271.50	2,620.97	3,145.16
HALE	1,041.68	1,215.29	1,388.91	1,562.52	1,909.75	2,256.97	2,604.20	3,125.04
HORDLE	1,044.79	1,218.93	1,393.06	1,567.19	1,915.45	2,263.72	2,611.98	3,134.38
HYDE	1,029.29	1,200.83	1,372.38	1,543.93	1,887.03	2,230.12	2,573.22	3,087.86
HYPHE & DIBDEN	1,080.10	1,260.12	1,440.13	1,620.15	1,980.18	2,340.22	2,700.25	3,240.30
LYMINGTON & PENNINGTON	1,084.15	1,264.85	1,445.54	1,626.23	1,987.61	2,349.00	2,710.38	3,252.46
LYNDHURST	1,051.33	1,226.55	1,401.77	1,576.99	1,927.43	2,277.87	2,628.32	3,153.98
MARCHWOOD	1,091.99	1,273.99	1,455.99	1,637.99	2,001.99	2,365.99	2,729.98	3,275.98
MARTIN	1,036.99	1,209.83	1,382.66	1,555.49	1,901.15	2,246.82	2,592.48	3,110.98
MILFORD-ON-SEA	1,040.84	1,214.31	1,387.79	1,561.26	1,908.21	2,255.15	2,602.10	3,122.52
MINSTEAD	1,035.36	1,207.92	1,380.48	1,553.04	1,898.16	2,243.28	2,588.40	3,106.08
NETLEY MARSH	1,031.23	1,203.11	1,374.98	1,546.85	1,890.59	2,234.34	2,578.08	3,093.70
NEW MILTON	1,063.09	1,240.28	1,417.46	1,594.64	1,949.00	2,303.37	2,657.73	3,189.28
RINGWOOD	1,076.91	1,256.39	1,435.88	1,615.36	1,974.33	2,333.30	2,692.27	3,230.72
ROCKBOURNE	1,067.59	1,245.52	1,423.45	1,601.38	1,957.24	2,313.10	2,668.97	3,202.76
SANDLEHEATH	1,034.19	1,206.56	1,378.92	1,551.29	1,896.02	2,240.75	2,585.48	3,102.58
SOPLEY	1,064.94	1,242.43	1,419.92	1,597.41	1,952.39	2,307.37	2,662.35	3,194.82
SWAY	1,040.84	1,214.31	1,387.79	1,561.26	1,908.21	2,255.15	2,602.10	3,122.52
TOTTON & ELING	1,100.78	1,284.24	1,467.71	1,651.17	2,018.10	2,385.02	2,751.95	3,302.34
WHITSBURY	1,028.99	1,200.49	1,371.99	1,543.49	1,886.49	2,229.49	2,572.48	3,086.98
WOODGREEN	1,037.04	1,209.88	1,382.72	1,555.56	1,901.24	2,246.92	2,592.60	3,111.12

55 MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS

RESOLVED:

- (a) That it be noted that Cllr Frampton has resigned from the Planning Development Control Committee and that the vacancy would be filled at a later date; and
- (b) That Cllrs M Harris, Mrs Holding, Rickman and Steele be appointed as the Employers' Side representatives on the Employee Engagement Panel, with Cllrs E Heron, J Heron, Mrs Crisell and J Ward as substitutes.

56 ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

RESOLVED:

That, under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and the Press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 & 5 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act and the public interest in maintaining the exception outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

The Council considered a confidential report of the Planning Development Control Committee dated 8 February 2017 for which there is a confidential minute.

CHAIRMAN

Attachments: Appendices 1-4

Leader of the Council – Budget Speech - 20 February 2017

“Delivering our Promises – Securing a better future for the New Forest”

In May 2015 New Forest residents showed their trust in the conservative administration of New Forest. Last year I highlighted that we had many challenges to face and many changes were needed. I urged all councillors long standing or newly elected to observe our manifesto and its pledges in conjunction with the corporate plan as we go forward. As I set out our budget for 2017 -2018 I will give you a mid-term report of how I think we are doing.

We recognised that to secure a better future for the New Forest we needed to **support local businesses to grow and prosper**. At the New Forest and Hampshire County Show we showcased our help to local business answering questions on Business start-ups, planning questions, broadband enquiries and social media advice - just some of the ways the Council supports New Forest business. The Countess of Wessex and members of the eM3 Local Enterprise Partnership were our highest profile visitors among hundreds that visited our stand.

Our partnership with Creative England which utilises the many natural attributes of the New Forest has generated in its first few months an estimated £80,000 for the local economy.

The successful New Forest Expo held at Brockenhurst College also served to highlight both the strength of local business and our partnership with the New Forest Business Partnership. At the Expo 80 local businesses were able to showcase their products and services. Following this success the business partnership will be following this up in 2017 again at Brockenhurst.

The eleventh annual New Forest Brilliance in Business Awards was another success with seven local businesses highlighted with awards, presented by Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, President of the New Forest Business Partnership. Congratulations also to Hythe for becoming village of the year 2017. I would like to thank Mathew Lawson for all his work as Chairman of the Business Partnership.

I am committed to ensuring support to local businesses both large and small as a priority.

We need to invest to invest in the next generation of our workforce and I am pleased that since 2010 we have recruited 30 apprentices of which 5 have gone on to gain employment with the Council, 4 have undertaken further apprenticeships and others have found employment outside of the council.

Last year I talked about the fiscal challenges we faced and the changes we needed to make in order to **keep Council Tax as low as possible**. We again face further significant reductions in government funding and the government is looking to us to increase Council Tax by £5 at Band D, an increase of 3.2%. (Band D £163.36 -2017/18)

In maintaining our good housekeeping we will ensure we deliver a balanced budget and live within our means. We have overseen the slim down of our senior management structure which is now completed and working well. We will continue to improve the management of the Council's resources to help make us less reliant on government grant. We have done this by looking at all we do and funding what is important to our community, protecting existing revenue streams and identifying new areas that could increase our annual revenue.

This approach has led us to review our contribution to the visitor destination. The establishment of a new company driven by local business with some initial support from us.

This will provide support for the visitor economy of the New Forest and when the Company is fully up and running save the taxpayer £140,000 per annum. It is both a good deal for business and for the taxpayer.

Our investment in rebuilding the beach huts at Milford on Sea will provide a new improved facility to beach hut owners, enhance the protection to our coastline and deliver annual revenue of £44,000, a return of 4.4% on the net beach hut investment. In addition the extra work we have carried out to the promenade will enhance the amenity for all visitors to Milford.

Looking ahead we will continue to both support our local economy and increase annual revenue with our new Asset Investment Strategy. This we will approach in a prudent and sensible manner. These are not easy decisions to take but we have taken these brave steps to ensure we **maintain and improve frontline services**.

We made a commitment to provide more affordable homes and this month we will be delivering 21 newly built council homes at New Milton. We will be looking very closely at the recently published Housing White Paper to identify opportunities for providing more and affordable homes.

Our special environment means that we have to work hard to protect it and we welcome new powers we have received that will enable us to issue Fixed Penalty Notices for fly tipping. We will not hesitate in protecting our special environment.

We recognise that many of our residents are vulnerable so we have continued to develop our community alarm service "Appletree Careline". To improve the service we launched a new wristband service, which quickly gets help to an individual when it is needed. In our review of Community Grants we agreed to give New Forest Disability Information Service an increase in their grant of £7,500.

We have obtained planning permission to provide a much needed new cemetery on the former military base at Calshot.

Keeping weekly rubbish and recycling collections unchanged is important to us. This key service we are continually looking to improve and as we promised there are no plans to change the method, black and clear sacks. We recently launched Remind Me, a text messaging service which reminds residents to put their glass out the evening before collection is due. Within the first two weeks we had almost 10,000 residents sign up for this service.

I am pleased to report that in February 2017 we reached an all-time high in our Health and Leisure Centre membership, 7,616 members. We will continue to invest in our centres Totton and Lymington benefited from new equipment, last year and we have plans to refurbish Ringwood 2017.

We will continue to deliver on our commitment to provide good frontline services that our residents want. We are not afraid to make changes and look at new ways of working in order to deliver better services for our community.

Looking ahead reviewing our local plan is a key action of 2017-18. The need for more housing is a serious and difficult challenge for our community within our special environment. The challenge we face is how we locally respond to a national shortage. I believe we will in the future see more housing and development. What we have to ensure is that we **listen to our local residents** and deliver what is both needed and acceptable to the New Forest. In all cases we will try to influence outcomes that residents want.

A good example of how we are prepared to listen and improve services is in the building of two new Public Conveniences with “Changing places” facilities. One of our residents Sarah Brisdion, has a son Hadley who has Cerebral Palsy. She had been campaigning for improved facilities. We made contact with her and took note of the special requirements of her son in designing the new facilities as a result they are fully accessible for Hadley. The Council is now named as one of Hadley’s Heroes for its response to her campaign.

We recognise that we are part of our community and we need **to work with partners** and engage with our local communities to deliver good outcomes for the New Forest. Throughout the year we have recognised that we are part of our community.

Engaging with future generations is in particular a highlight for me in my role and visits from young students to the Council chamber to learn about democracy and how the council works are important engagements for the Council. . The young people also provided comments and perspectives on the Council that we can learn from.

The Volunteers evening was a great success and showcased the work of many in our community. I would like to thank the Chairman of the Council for his efforts in instigating this event and I hope we build on it in future years.

The success of the military parade to mark the granting of the Freedom of the New Forest District to the 17 Port & Maritime Regiment, Royal Logistics Corps was one of many events where we successfully engaged with our local community.

I mentioned the Chairman of the Council earlier and I would like to thank him for his work in promoting the Council and also thank the staff of the Council, many of whom contribute in ways beyond their council role. I was impressed with Totton Health and Leisure Centre staff who raised more than £15,000 for four local charities with a big indoor cycling event.

I would also like to highlight Jake Hoy, one of our Health and Leisure lifeguards who was shortlisted for an award by the Royal Life Saving Society, a drowning prevention charity, in recognition of his outstanding contribution.

During the last year the future of the District council has come under much scrutiny with long drawn out discussions on devolution. The Council has taken an active role working closely with neighbouring local authorities. We shared in a joint piece of work undertaken by Price Waterhouse Cooper to help us better understand options. Over the last year mine and the Chief Executive’s time spent on trying to find a sensible and acceptable workable solution was considerable. To date this has come to nothing, but we remain very much engaged in the development of the discussion. We have watched closely the discussion in Dorset on Local Government Reorganisation and we await with interest that outcome.

During all of these discussions our approach was to assess the benefit to our community of any change in arrangement. We remain open to support any action which brings clear benefit to our community. During these discussions which at times were difficult we maintained good relationships with all councils.

The Council has a good track record of working with neighbouring Council’s. With Hampshire County Council we together delivered the successful Ringwood Gateway. We currently undertake on their behalf work under the Highways Agency, together with highways grass cutting. We are part of the Countywide Waste Partnership (Project Integra). We share our Treasury Management service with them giving us the benefits derived from their scale and broader knowledge base. We work very closely with them on the Supporting Troubled Families programme which brings benefits to their care service and our housing and housing

benefits service. We work very well with the Police, Fire and Rescue Services and other local bodies in the delivery of our Community Safety Partnership. We share our Internal Audit Service with Christchurch, East Dorset and Purbeck. We share some of our Planning Services with the National Park. We work closely with and support our 37 Town and Parish Councils on areas of common interest, e.g. tree maintenance contract.

Looking to the future we see the potential for greater working together with neighbouring councils and partners in order to deliver improved outcomes for our community.

For now the role of the district council is as it always has been to carry on delivering good services like collecting your rubbish and recycling, administering planning, managing council housing, providing housing advice and homelessness prevention, maintaining public toilets, supporting CCTV in towns and villages, operating cemeteries, caring for the coastline, keeping our streets clean and grass cut, administering taxi licencing, monitoring air quality, running electoral registration, recovering stray dogs, controlling food hygiene, maintaining trees, providing community and leisure services, and offering pest control services. Next year we will do all this and more for £3.14 per week (Band D).

We intend to get on with this job and deliver what I believe to be good value for money for our community.

I said at the beginning, I would use this Budget Speech as a mid term report on how we are doing on what we set out in our manifesto.

My report conclusion is that we are delivering on our promises and securing a better future for the New Forest.

My grateful thanks to all councillors, staff, cabinet members and our chief executive in getting us to this point. I commend the Budget to you.

Liberal Democrat Leader - Budget Speech - 20 February 2017

Chairman,

I wanted to start on a point of agreement. It's to express my thanks and appreciation to all the officers and staff of the Council for all the hard work they have undertaken during the year. I am sure other members will have experienced what I have done. Whenever I have referred something to them, whether it is a housing issue, a waste collection problem or a problem with my I.T. equipment, I have always been impressed by a very professional, responsive and courteous response.

I am more aware than most that this has been a difficult and challenging time for the workforce and I of course include, in my thanks, recognition to those who are no longer with the Council.

And now to the budget. Chairman, I have only two main issues with the budget that you have produced this year....

It's all the things you are doing,

And it's all the things you are not doing!

So let's remind ourselves of what you are setting out to achieve in your budget setting process.

First of all, I hope at least some members will agree with me that it's a crazy system, a Tory system, that says a referendum is needed if you want to raise the council tax beyond a set limit. We all know that referendums are expensive and some of us don't like the outcomes, but the worst thing about this particular Tory straight jacket is that it takes away local accountability for deciding what people are prepared to pay for the services that are delivered locally.

The experience has been, up and down the country, that local authorities have not held referendums, they have restricted council tax increases, often within a tissue thickness of what they can get away with and sacrificed public services.

If the government really understood devolution it would give the freedom for Councils to determine council tax rates and the accountability for their decisions would come from the ballot box – not central control of a type that Karl Marx would be proud of!

As if this was not bad enough, you Conservatives are exercising rigid, inflexible, control over a few thousand pounds worth of council tax, whilst at the same time, taking out a £30 million loan of public money.

£30 million Chairman.... spending taxpayer's money without a referendum, without even asking them whether they thought this was a wise idea. It's your cunning plan, designed to save public services. It's an unnecessary risk with no Plan B if the investments don't perform as you hope they will. Is this prudent? I don't think so. Is it a more secure way of making sure that we have public services in 5 years, ten years or 50 years time? I don't think so.

The best way to secure public services is to raise council tax to the levels people are prepared to pay. We don't want to be operating on a wing and prayer, hoping that investments will perform well so that we can collect household waste. I can't believe that all members support this and I hope they aren't keeping quiet in order not to rock the boat and put party interests above what's right for the residents of the New Forest.

I touched on devolution. Sometimes I express opinions, hoping that I am going to be wrong. Sadly that rarely happens. I seem to be a bit of a mystic meg.

When you Conservatives started the ball rolling, talking up the possibilities of devolution, I stood in this Chamber and encouraged you not to spend time, effort and money into this enterprise. I knew, for example, that what was being proposed was not devolution – as most people would understand it – it was really about a local government reorganisation, carving up Hampshire and creating a new tier of government, with an elected Mayor.

I said, did I not, that there was no appetite amongst the public for these proposals and I directly opposed all of the effort and expense, again taxpayer's money being spent on the issue. It's been calculated that the total expenditure by all local authorities in Hampshire, dealing with the devolution issue amounts to £500,000. That's £500,000 of taxpayer's money and where has it got us ? All it seems to have achieved is bad feelings between different authorities, just at a time when we owe it to the public to be working ever more closely together.

I deeply regret that it has taken so much the valuable time of our Chief Executive and his Senior management team. I want him to be entirely focused on doing the best he can for the residents of the New Forest. I have heard it said that devolution in Hampshire is a dead duck, I think it's more like a dead albatross hanging across the neck of Tory Council leaders and I won't easily allow you to forget it.

Now another thing... beach huts. 2016 will go down in history as the year in which you managed to surpass yourselves with your national fame, including a mention in Private Eye's Rotten Boroughs Section, the £300,000 loss of taxpayer's money on the slippery floors case. I honestly thought that that was going to be the high water mark of Tory stupidity, but you have proved me wrong.

Where and when, pray tell me, was the provision of swanky new beach huts, costing £1.2 million more than they need to, elevated to a council corporate priority?

How on earth, did you get yourselves sucked into approving and signing off such a scheme? Are there any members who think that spending over a million pounds on beach huts is more important than keeping our recycling facilities, for example. You have decided to close no less than 80 mini recycling sites that benefit people from all over the District, in order to save a few thousand pounds whilst spending all this money on beach huts.

It's priceless, it's also beyond my understanding that you have sought to justify the expenditure on the basis that it's a coastal flooding protection scheme. You have demonstrated that you have the same level of judgement as King Canute!

So.... that's some of the things you have achieved... now let's look at what you aren't doing

Still another year with no action to help those people who have lost a bus service. Other District and Boroughs recognise the importance of providing a subsidy to keep bus services running, not this one. Who suffers the most, older and more vulnerable people, many of whom used to enjoy an Age Concern luncheon club before you take the funding for that away.

Recycling – where are the initiatives aimed at improving recycling rates in the District. Your performance is dismal. The actions you have taken are all going in the opposite direction, making it more difficult for people to recycle. It will mean your rates will go down further and there will be increased instances of fly-tipping all around the area, including in our much loved National Park.

Housing – another year of pathetic performance providing any realistic scale of affordable housing in the area. It comes to something when we ask the Comms team here to make a big thing of the District delivering a handful of council houses. We still have a waiting list of some 5000 people. We still have far too many people in Bed and Breakfast accommodation. We still have too many people in housing that does not meet their needs. It a consistent record of failure.

And thank goodness for the National Park Authority. Your latest money saving wheeze, withdrawing funding for the Visitor Information Service to 130,000 tourists who visit the centre each year would have been a disaster. I am so pleased that despite being put into this position and not having the benefit of all the hundreds of thousands of pounds of car park income that the District Council enjoys, the Park Authority responded positively and rescued the situation. I think we owe them a debt of gratitude.

Last year, was the year that the District Council washed its' hands, shirking responsibility for running a tourism service. It begs the question.... what next?

If you have the inclination to withdraw from direct delivery of services and contracting things out to the commercial or the third sector, then it's perfectly possible to do so. But how long before people start asking what's the point of even having a District Council.

I am very pleased that you picked up a theme I first introduced a few years ago, looking at whether we really need so many Councillors, especially having downsized the workforce so much. The sensible things that Tories do are often those that were first suggested by the Lib Dems. We are a small group, at the moment, but thank goodness we are here, as an effective opposition. It needs someone to highlight your gross inadequacies and misjudgements.

No budget today from the Lib Dems, but our time will come!

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Minute Item 51

APPENDIX 3

RECORDED VOTE MINUTE NO. 51 –ITEM 3 OF THE REPORT OF THE CABINET DATED 1 FEBRUARY 2017

Votes For		Votes Against	Abstentions
Cllr Mrs Andrews	Cllr Mrs Holding	Cllr Harrison	
Cllr Andrews	Cllr Kendal		
Cllr Armstrong	Cllr Mrs Lane		
Cllr Beck	Cllr Mrs Lovelace		
Cllr Ms Bellows	Cllr Lucas		
Cllr Mrs Bennison	Cllr Mrs McEvoy		
Cllr Binns	Cllr O'Sullivan		
Cllr Britton	Cllr Penman		
Cllr Mrs Brooks	Cllr Penson		
Cllr Carpenter	Cllr Poole		
Cllr Mrs Cerasoli	Cllr Puttock		
Cllr Clarke	Cllr Rickman		
Cllr Mrs Cleary	Cllr Russell		
Cllr Coombes	Cllr Ms Sevier		
Cllr Ms Crisell	Cllr Steele		
Cllr Davies	Cllr Thierry		
Cllr Davis	Cllr Mrs Thorne		
Cllr Ms Ford	Cllr Tipp		
Cllr Frampton	Cllr Tungate		
Cllr Glass	Cllr Wappet		
Cllr L Harris	Cllr Mrs Ward		
Cllr M Harris	Cllr Ward		
Cllr E Heron	Cllr White		
Cllr J Heron	Cllr Wise		
Cllr Mrs Hoare	Cllr Mrs Wyeth		

Total:

50

1

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APPENDIX 4

RECORDED VOTE MINUTE NO. 54 - THE 2017/18 COUNCIL TAX

Votes For		Votes Against	Abstentions
Cllr Mrs Andrews	Cllr Mrs Holding	Cllr Harrison	
Cllr Andrews	Cllr Kendal		
Cllr Armstrong	Cllr Mrs Lane		
Cllr Beck	Cllr Mrs Lovelace		
Cllr Ms Bellows	Cllr Lucas		
Cllr Mrs Bennison	Cllr Mrs McEvoy		
Cllr Binns	Cllr O'Sullivan		
Cllr Britton	Cllr Penman		
Cllr Mrs Brooks	Cllr Penson		
Cllr Carpenter	Cllr Poole		
Cllr Mrs Cerasoli	Cllr Puttock		
Cllr Clarke	Cllr Rickman		
Cllr Mrs Cleary	Cllr Russell		
Cllr Coombes	Cllr Ms Sevier		
Cllr Ms Crisell	Cllr Steele		
Cllr Davies	Cllr Thierry		
Cllr Davis	Cllr Mrs Thorne		
Cllr Ms Ford	Cllr Tipp		
Cllr Frampton	Cllr Tungate		
Cllr Glass	Cllr Wappet		
Cllr L Harris	Cllr Mrs Ward		
Cllr M Harris	Cllr Ward		
Cllr E Heron	Cllr White		
Cllr J Heron	Cllr Wise		
Cllr Mrs Hoare	Cllr Mrs Wyeth		

Total:

50

1

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REPORT OF AUDIT COMMITTEE (Meeting held on 24 March 2017)

1. LOCAL CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE – THE NEW FRAMEWORK (MINUTE 49)

The Committee has considered a new local Code of Corporate Governance.

Since 2008 the Council has adopted a Local Code of Corporate Governance based on the framework produced by the Chartered Institute for Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE).

In 2016 CIPFA/SOLACE carried out a review of their framework to ensure that it still reflects the environment in which Councils are operating and to also reflect the International framework which had been developed by CIPFA and the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) in 2014.

As a result of their review in April 2016 CIPFA/SOLACE published a new framework document “Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework 2016 Edition” with the key focus of governance processes and structures centring on the attainment of sustainable economic, societal and environmental outcomes. The new framework centres on the following 7 core principles:

A Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values and respecting the rule of law.

B Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement.

C Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits.

D Determining how to best optimize the achievement of intended outcomes

E Developing the entity’s capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it.

F Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management.

G Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting and audit to deliver effective accountability.

The International Framework notes that principles A and B permeate implementation of principles C to G. Each Local Authority should have a code that reflects these principles and be committed to improving governance on a continuing basis.

The process of evaluation and review will be undertaken annually by the Monitoring Officer (Governance and Regulation Executive Head) and Principal Auditor. This report therefore proposes a revised code for adopting which follows these principles.

A revised code has been drafted and is attached as Appendix 1. This code follows the recommended text in the CIPFA/SOLACE framework.

RECOMMENDED:

It is recommended that the new version of the Local Code of Corporate Governance, as attached as Appendix 1, be approved.

**CHAIRMAN
CLLR A O’SULLIVAN**

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Local Code of Corporate Governance

New Forest District Council recognises the need for effective corporate governance arrangements and has a range of systems policies and procedures designed to achieve this. The Council also recognises that effective local government relies upon establishing and maintaining the confidence of the public in both the elected members and the officers of the Council.

In adopting this local code, the Council is committing itself to maintaining and improving these arrangements.

PRINCIPLE A: This is about how an organisation behaves with integrity, demonstrates strong commitment to ethical values, and respects the rule of law.

Sub-principle	
Behaving with integrity	<p>Ensuring members and officers behave with integrity and lead a culture where acting in the public interest is visibly and consistent.</p> <p>Ensuring members take the lead in establishing specific standard operating principles or values for the organisation and its staff and that they are communicated and understood</p> <p>Leading by example and using the above standard operating principles or values as a framework for decision making and other actions.</p> <p>Demonstrating, communicating and embedding the standard operating principles or values through appropriate policies and processes.</p>
Demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values	<p>Seeking to establish, monitor and maintain the organisation's ethical standards and performance.</p> <p>Underpinning personal behaviour with ethical values.</p> <p>Developing and maintaining robust policies and procedures which place emphasis on agreed ethical values</p> <p>Ensuring that external providers of services on behalf of the organisation are required to act with integrity and in compliance with ethical standards expected by the organisation.</p>
Respecting the rule of law	<p>Ensuring members and staff demonstrate a strong commitment to the rule of the law as well as adhering to relevant laws and regulations.</p> <p>Creating the conditions to ensure that the statutory officers, other key post holders, and members, are able to fulfil their responsibilities in accordance with legislative and regulatory requirements.</p> <p>Dealing with breaches of legal and regulatory provisions effectively.</p> <p>Ensuring corruption and misuse of power are dealt with effectively.</p>

PRINCIPLE B: This principle is about demonstrating how an organisation ensures openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement.

Sub-principle	
Openness	<p>Ensuring an open culture through demonstrating, documenting and communicating the organisation's commitment to openness.</p> <p>Making decisions that are open about actions, plans, resource use, forecasts, outputs and outcomes.</p> <p>Providing clear reasoning and evidence for decisions in both public records and explanations to stakeholders and being explicit about the criteria, rationale and considerations used. In due course, ensuring that the impact and consequences of those decisions are clear.</p> <p>Using formal and informal consultation and engagement to determine the most appropriate and effective interventions/ courses</p>

	of action.
Engaging comprehensively with institutional stakeholders	<p>Effectively engaging with institutional stakeholders to ensure that the purpose, objectives and intended outcomes for each stakeholder relationship are clear so that outcomes are achieved successfully and sustainably.</p> <p>Developing formal and informal partnerships to allow for resources to be used more efficiently and outcomes achieved more effectively.</p> <p>Ensuring that partnerships are based on: trust, a shared commitment to change, a culture that promotes and accepts challenge among partners, and that the added value of partnership working is explicit.</p>
Engaging with individual citizens and service users effectively	<p>Establishing a clear policy on the type of issues that the organisation will meaningfully consult with to ensure that service (or other) provision is contributing towards the achievement of intended outcomes.</p> <p>Ensuring that communication methods are effective.</p> <p>Encouraging, collecting and evaluating the views and experiences of communities, citizens, service users and organisations of different backgrounds including reference to future needs.</p> <p>Implementing effective feedback mechanisms in order to demonstrate how views have been taken into account.</p> <p>Balancing feedback from more active stakeholder groups with other stakeholder groups to ensure inclusivity.</p> <p>Taking account of the impact of decisions on future generations of tax payers and service users.</p>

PRINCIPLE C: This principle is about how an organisation defines outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits.

Sub-principle	
Defining outcomes	<p>Having a clear vision, which is an agreed formal statement of the organisation's purpose and intended outcomes containing appropriate performance indicators, which provide the basis for the organisation's overall strategy, planning and other decisions.</p> <p>Specifying the intended impact on, or changes for, stakeholders including citizens and service users. It could be immediately or over the course of a year or longer.</p> <p>Delivering defined outcomes on a sustainable basis within the resources that will be available.</p> <p>Identifying and managing risks to the achievement of outcomes.</p> <p>Managing service users' expectations effectively with regard to determining priorities and making the best use of the resources available.</p>
Sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits	<p>Considering and balancing the combined economic, social and environmental impact of policies and plans when taking decisions about service provision.</p> <p>Taking a longer-term view with regard to decision making, taking account of risk and acting transparently where there are potential</p>

	<p>conflicts between the organisation's intended outcomes and short-term factors such as the political cycle or financial constraints.</p> <p>Determining the wider public interest associated with balancing conflicting interests between achieving the various economic, social and environmental benefits, through consultation where possible, in order to ensure appropriate trade-offs.</p> <p>Ensuring fair access to services.</p>
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PRINCIPLE D: This principle is about how an organisation determines the interventions necessary to optimize the achievement of the intended outcomes.

Sub-principle	
Determining interventions	<p>Ensuring decision makers receive objective and rigorous analysis of a variety of options indicating how intended outcomes would be achieved and associated risks.</p> <p>Considering feedback from citizens and service users when making decisions about service improvements or where services are no longer required in order to prioritise competing demands within limited resources available including people, skills, land and assets and bearing in mind future impacts.</p>
Planning interventions	<p>Establishing and implementing robust planning and control cycles that cover strategic and operational plans, priorities and targets.</p> <p>Engaging with internal and external stakeholders in determining how services and other courses of action should be planned and delivered.</p> <p>Considering and monitoring risks facing each partner when working collaboratively, including shared risks.</p> <p>Establishing appropriate key performance indicators as part of the planning process.</p> <p>Ensuring capacity exists to generate the information required to review service quality regularly.</p> <p>Preparing budgets in accordance with objectives, strategies and the medium term financial plan.</p> <p>Informing medium and long term resource planning by drawing up realistic estimates of revenue and capital expenditure aimed at developing a sustainable funding strategy.</p>
Optimising achievement of intended outcomes	<p>Ensuring the medium term financial strategy integrates and balances service priorities, affordability and other resource constraints.</p> <p>Ensuring the budgeting process is all-inclusive, taking into account the full cost of operations over the medium and longer term.</p> <p>Ensuring the medium term financial strategy sets the context for ongoing decisions on significant delivery issues or responses to changes in the external environment that may arise during the budgetary period in order for outcomes to be achieved while optimising resource usage.</p> <p>Ensuring the achievement of 'social value' through service planning and commissioning.</p>

PRINCIPLE E: This principle demonstrates how the organisation develops the entity’s capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it.

Sub-principle	
Developing the entity’s capacity	<p>Reviewing operations, performance and use of assets on a regular basis to ensure their continuing effectiveness</p> <p>Improving resource use through appropriate application of techniques such as benchmarking and other options in order to determine how resources are allocated so that defined outcomes are achieved effectively and efficiently</p> <p>Recognising the benefits of partnerships and collaborative working where added value can be achieved</p> <p>Developing and maintaining an effective workforce plan to enhance the strategic allocation of resources</p>
Developing the capability of the entity’s leadership and other individuals	<p>Developing protocols to ensure that elected and appointed leaders negotiate with each other regarding their respective roles early on in the relationship and that a shared understanding of roles and objectives is maintained.</p> <p>Publishing a statement that specifies the types of decisions that are delegated and those reserved for the collective decision making of the governing body.</p> <p>Ensuring the leader and the chief executive have clearly defined and distinctive leadership roles within a structure.</p> <p>Ensuring members and staff have access to appropriate induction tailored to their role and that ongoing training and development is available and encouraged</p> <p>Ensuring that there are structures in place to encourage public participation.</p> <p>Holding staff to account through regular performance reviews which take account of training or development needs</p> <p>Ensuring arrangements are in place to maintain the health and wellbeing of the workforce and support individuals in maintaining their own physical and mental wellbeing.</p>

PRINCIPLE F: This principle demonstrates how the organisation manages risks and performance through robust internal control & strong public financial management.

Sub-principle	
Managing risk	<p>Recognising that risk management is an integral part of all activities and must be considered in all aspects of decision making.</p> <p>Implementing robust and integrated risk management arrangements and ensuring that they are working effectively.</p> <p>Ensuring that responsibilities for managing individual risks are clearly allocated.</p>
Managing performance	<p>Monitoring service delivery effectively including planning, specification, execution and independent post implementation review.</p> <p>Making decisions based on relevant, clear objective analysis and advice.</p> <p>Ensuring an effective scrutiny or oversight function is in place which</p>

	<p>provides constructive challenge and debate on policies and objectives before, during and after decisions are made thereby enhancing the organisation's performance and that of any organisation for which it is responsible.</p> <p>Providing members and senior management with regular reports on service delivery plans and on progress towards outcome achievement.</p> <p>Ensuring there is consistency between specification stages (such as budgets) and post implementation reporting (e.g. financial statements).</p>
Robust internal control	<p>Aligning the risk management strategy and policies on internal control with achieving objectives.</p> <p>Evaluating risk management and internal control on a regular basis.</p> <p>Ensuring effective counter fraud and anti-corruption arrangements are in place.</p> <p>Ensuring additional assurance on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the framework of governance, risk management and control is provided by the internal auditor.</p> <p>Ensuring an audit committee, which is independent of the executive and accountable to the governing body:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provides a further source of effective assurance regarding arrangements for managing risk and maintaining an effective control environment. • that its recommendations are listened to and acted upon.
Managing data	<p>Ensuring effective arrangements are in place for the safe collection, storage, use and sharing of data, including processes to safeguard personal data.</p> <p>Ensuring effective arrangements are in place and operating effectively when sharing data with other bodies.</p> <p>Reviewing the quality and accuracy of data used in decision making and performance monitoring.</p>

PRINCIPLE G: This principle demonstrates how an organisation implements good practices in transparency, reporting and audit to deliver effective accountability.

Sub-principle	
Implementing good practice in transparency	<p>Writing and communicating reports for the public and other stakeholders in a fair, balanced and understandable style appropriate to the intended audience and ensuring that they are easy to access and interrogate</p> <p>Striking a balance between providing the right amount of information to satisfy transparency demands and enhance public scrutiny while not being too onerous.</p>
Implementing good practices in reporting	<p>Reporting at least annually on performance, value for money and stewardship of resources to stakeholders in a timely and understandable way.</p> <p>Ensuring members and senior management own the results reported.</p> <p>Ensuring robust arrangements for assessing the extent to which the principles contained in this Framework have been applied and publishing the results on this assessment, including an action plan for improvement and evidence to demonstrate good governance.</p>

	<p>Ensuring that this Framework is applied to jointly managed or shared service organisations as appropriate.</p> <p>Ensuring the performance information that accompanies the financial statements is prepared on a consistent and timely basis and the statements allow for comparison with other, similar organisations.</p>
<p>Assurance and effective accountability</p>	<p>Ensuring that recommendations for corrective action made by external audit are acted upon.</p> <p>Ensuring an effective internal audit service with direct access to members is in place, providing assurance with regard to governance arrangements and that recommendations are acted upon.</p> <p>Welcoming peer challenge, reviews and inspections from regulatory bodies and implementing recommendations.</p> <p>Gaining assurance on risks associated with delivering services through third parties.</p> <p>Ensuring that when working in partnership, arrangements for accountability are clear and the need for wider public accountability has been recognised and met.</p>

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Annual Report of the Overview & Scrutiny Panels – 2016/17

This Annual Report covers the work of the scrutiny panels between May 2016 and March 2017.

The Council has continued to face reductions in Central Government funding with growing demand for key council services. Scrutiny has been at the heart of finding new ways of working, not only internally but with external partners, to ensure that essential services that satisfy the needs of our residents are delivered.

All three of the Council's scrutiny panels have responded to the Council's priorities by focusing their work programmes on helping the Council find innovative ways of working, to find efficiencies in work processes and budgets. Recommendations are made to the appropriate Portfolio Holder or the Cabinet.

Task and Finish Groups continue to lead on undertaking in-depth reviews. All members of the Council have had the opportunity to get involved in this important work, not just those serving on the appointing panel, but also those with key interest or expertise in the particular subject. This allows all members to add value and input into the scrutiny process.

Moving forward, smaller budgets may create conditions where innovative ways of working will come to the fore. The scrutiny panels, in developing future work programmes, will need to focus on a range of issues relating to service delivery, as well as protecting existing revenue streams and identifying new areas to increase income.

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL
(Responsible for scrutiny of the following portfolios:
Environment and Planning & Transportation)

Main Reviews 2016/17

Car Park Ticket Machines

A task and finish group was appointed, previously, to evaluate options for replacement ticket machines for the Council's car parks. It was decided, following the initial stages of the procurement process, not to proceed as the technology for card based payments was evolving rapidly and there was not, at that stage, an established industry standard. The procurement was therefore put on hold for a year. The task and finish group was reconvened and developed a new scheme that will allow remote monitoring to provide for better maintenance, better data collection on ticket sales and better cash management. Of the 73 machines, 13 allow card payments. It is not possible to use card payment options in some areas as the 3G mobile phone service is inadequate. The Panel endorsed the Group's report and officers have now implemented the changes. New machines had been installed by the end of December 2016.

Cemeteries Regulations

The Panel established a task and finish group to work with the officers to progress a fundamental review of the Regulations that control the operation of the Council's cemeteries. The opportunity was also taken to update the registration scheme for Stonemasons and Monumental Masons who are authorised to work in the cemeteries. The revised Regulations, in addition to being very comprehensive, seek to be clear and readable, making it easier for bereaved families to understand what can and cannot be done. A number of outstanding issues have been addressed, such as updating the Council's practice in accordance with developing best practice and industry standards, including that young deceased people aged between 12 and 18 years will be classified as children and consequently subject to a lower burial charge. Recommendations will be made to the Cabinet on 5 April.

Coastal Funding Task and Finish Group

This group was established to evaluate options for achieving funding for coastal protection schemes in the District under the Government's new rules that require local funding sources. The group met a number of times in the early part of the year. Most recently they have received a briefing from the Manager at the Environment Agency who has special responsibility for this area of work, to explore best practice and interesting initiatives elsewhere.

The Council's Tree Management Strategy

The Panel reviewed the effectiveness of the Tree Management Strategy which was adopted in 2014. The strategy targeted resources on a risk assessed basis. With the use of modern technology, records were being accessed and updated on site, with the information gathered being used to generate the programme of works. The strategy had also allowed this Council to work jointly with Test Valley Borough Council for the contract for tree management. The new contract became effective on 1 January 2017. This new contract arrangement is very successful as the volume of work from the two Councils is sufficient to justify one of the major national companies maintaining a depot at Cadnam so they can respond effectively to the contract. The Council therefore has access to a wider range of heavy duty equipment to respond to emergencies, such as major storm damage. The strategy will be reviewed again in June 2017, with any comments being passed to the Portfolio Holder for consideration.

District Local Plan Review

The Panel has been kept informed of progress in developing proposals for inclusion in the District Local Plan Review. An initial consultation was held on potential options. The responses received have been analysed and researched to inform the choice of sites that will be included in the document that will be published for consultation prior to submission to the Secretary of State for consideration at an Examination in Public. It is now expected that the Cabinet will consider the Council's proposal document in September.

Household Waste Recycling Centres

The County Council's proposals to achieve significant savings against the budget for the operation of household waste recycling centres across the County had been a cause of significant concern, following the initial consultations. The Panel has assisted the Portfolio Holder in making detailed representations on the potential ill effects of any closure or reduction in opening hours in this District. Following a visit by Cllr Humby, the County's Portfolio Holder, it was announced that there would not be any closures, and indeed the opening hours at Efford would be extended to 6.00 p.m. to match the hours at other centres.

Project Integra

The Panel has undertaken its annual review of the performance of Project Integra, the partnership for waste management in Hampshire, in delivering its business and action plans in respect of waste disposal and recycling. The Panel was satisfied that the partnership was meeting the objectives in the action plan and was also planning for the future, aiming to increase the proportion of waste that was re-used or recycled; and also looking for ways to reduce the overall cost burden on the taxpayers of Hampshire. A proactive approach is being taken, based on a "whole system" approach to waste management being developed following research commissioned by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Chief Executives. The maintenance of the quality of the materials collected is important in retaining access to markets with good financial returns. One issue of immediate importance is the potential opportunities offered by the programmed refit of the Alton Materials Recycling Facility, which will define what materials can be recycled in the next 15 year period. Waste reduction is also a key focus, particularly with respect to reducing food wastage, with a number of initiatives, such as publishing recipes for using left over food, being used.

Planning Fees

A task and finish group has been established to market test the fees currently charged for non-statutory services, such as pre-application advice, and to make recommendations on potential additional sources of income.

Recycling Bring Banks in the District

The Panel supported the findings of a study into the future need for recycling bring sites across the District. Following the introduction of the kerbside collection of glass, the need for bring sites had considerably reduced. The analysis of the quantities of materials collected from each site and of the capabilities of the collection vehicles demonstrated that the number of sites could be reduced from over 100 to around 20, spread across the District. The collection arrangements should also be changed to improve efficiency. This rationalisation allows consideration to be given to increasing the range of materials that are collected, for example by running a trial of the introduction of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment collection points.

The Panel suggested that there should be greater coverage than proposed in the rural areas in the north of the District and this was taken into account in the final proposals agreed by the Cabinet.

The review will achieve savings of around £140,000 per annum.

Totton Air Quality Management Area

The Panel has maintained a watching brief on air quality within the Air Quality Management Areas in the District. This year the decision was taken to revoke the Air Quality Management Area in Totton. This Area had been declared to address poor air quality caused by stationary traffic around the railway crossing in Junction Road in Totton. Since the Air Quality Management Area had been declared there had been no exceedances of the air quality standards and, in accordance with Government guidelines, the Cabinet was recommended to seek revocation. The Panel satisfied themselves that monitoring of air quality in that area would continue, to ensure that there is no deterioration.

Traffic Management, the Traffic Management Agency and Grass Cutting

The Panel have been kept informed on the progress of discussions with the County Council on future arrangements for traffic management in this area. Historically, this Council have undertaken certain functions on the County's behalf and have, in addition, supplemented the service from NFDC's own resources. The County Council undertook a review, in the light of the continuing pressures on them to achieve budget savings. Their final proposal was that some traffic management works would be taken back in house, with the payment to this Council reduced by about 40% from 2017/18 and 60% in 2018/19. One of the effects of the change was that only traffic management schemes that met the County's key objective of casualty reduction would be considered. The County have now agreed, following negotiations, that they will allow locally important schemes to be progressed, provided they are funded locally. This Council has agreed, in principle, to continue to supplement the budget, to allow some flexibility and control to be retained locally.

Negotiations are underway with the County Council to try to retain grass cutting and shrub maintenance, where again this Council supplements the County's normal maintenance regime to achieve standards that are more commensurate with the aspirations of local people and the image of this important tourism destination. The Panel will assess the outcome of these negotiations in due course.

Portfolio Holder reports

The Environment and the Planning and Transportation Portfolio Holders both attend the Panel's meetings on a regular basis and maintain a constructive dialogue on work in progress.

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL
(Responsible for scrutiny of the following portfolios:
Housing & Communities and Health & Leisure)

Main Reviews 2016/17

Community Grants

The Panel established a Task & Finish Group to review the process for awarding community grants, as well as examining applications for grants for 2017/18.

Over a series of three meetings the Group met with fourteen applicants seeking community grant aid funding from the Council. Members reviewed the current award process and eligibility criteria to ensure that the process was transparent and fair. The Group also examined how any funding support given would directly benefit residents of the New Forest and meet the Council's corporate priorities. The Group endeavoured throughout to balance the financial constraints of the Council against the needs of the voluntary groups and the good work they provided within the community. The Group made recommendations to the Cabinet on the allocation of community grants for 2017/18. These recommendations were taken forward by the Cabinet and agreed by the Council when setting the budget.

Dibden Golf Centre

A Task & Finish Group was established to review the performance of Mytime Active in their operation of Dibden Golf Centre. Mytime Active commenced management of the Centre on 1 April 2012 as part of a 30 year contract agreement with the Council. Part of the contract included provision for the first five years of rent to include fixed increments. The Group examined the performance of Mytime Active in order to assess the level of rent the Council should seek in the next five years, namely 2017-2021.

The Group has held three meetings to date, one of which took place at Dibden Golf Centre where members undertook a tour of the site and facilities. Members also held informal discussions with representatives of local golf clubs and some service users, and also received a presentation from representatives of Mytime Active.

The Group agreed to develop a closer working arrangement with Mytime Active to monitor and report back to the full Panel with regards to the investment programme for the next five years, given that Mytime Active has rescheduled the investment originally agreed.

The Task & Finish Group has come to a preliminary view regarding the future level of rent for the Centre, and is in the process of discussing this with Mytime Active board members. The Group hopes to submit a full report with recommendations to the May Panel meeting following these negotiations.

Legislative Changes

The Panel have received regular officer briefings on major legislative and proposed Government policy changes relating to housing and welfare.

The Panel has considered the impact of the Housing & Planning Act 2016 especially -

- 'Pay to stay': market rent for higher-income tenants
- Replacement of secure 'tenancies for life'
- Right to Buy and sale of higher-income assets

The Panel will continue to keep a watching brief on these issues most notably to advise the Portfolio Holder and the Cabinet on how changes might affect the interests of the Council and its tenants.

The Panel has also examined the Government's Housing White Paper "Fixing Our Broken Housing Market". This Paper proposes significant changes to planning and housing law in

order to implement a range of policies aimed at expanding the housing market and improving the affordability of homes.

The Panel has expressed a number of concerns regarding the Government's expectations in relation to increasing housing supply and the additional pressure this would place on local authorities. With the high cost of building and the increasing financial pressure being placed on Councils, largely through cuts in Government grant, the Panel is of the opinion that this Council would struggle to meet the Government's expectations, whilst addressing social housing needs within the District, and has requested that Portfolio Holders consider these comments in their response to the consultation.

Community Safety

In fulfilling its role as the statutory committee for scrutinising crime and disorder, the Panel reviewed the strategic assessment prepared by the Safer New Forest Strategy and Delivery Group. This assessed the Partnership's performance against the actions identified in the 2016/17 Partnership Plan. It also considered and supported draft actions for inclusion in the 2017/18 Partnership Plan.

The Panel continues to receive valuable updates from the Council's representative on the Hampshire Police and Crime Panel, on the work of that Panel and of the Police & Crime Commissioner.

Updates

The Panel has also received updates on: -

- Initial proposals for a review of the Council's health and leisure service and will consider this in greater detail at their meeting in May.
- The progress made against the recommendations of the CCTV Task & Finish Group in respect of the procurement arrangements for the transmission and maintenance contracts, and discussions with local town and parish councils with regard to their contributions to the cost of cameras in their area. The Panel will consider these issues further at their meeting in May.
- The Council's proposed strategy for future housing development and progress on the Council Housing Buy-Back & Development programme.
- Progress in implementing changes to the welfare benefits system and of universal credit.
- Progress against key actions and service reviews under the remit of the Panel.

External Scrutiny

The Panel continues to value the input of key partners, service users and Tenant Representatives as 'critical friends' in assisting the Panel in its work and the Council at large.

CORPORATE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL
(Responsible for scrutiny of the following portfolios:
Leader and Finance & Efficiency)

Main Reviews 2016/17

Work Programme

The Panel's work programme has focussed on supporting local business, as well as encouraging changes in the delivery of Council services to a more business-led footing, and supporting new income generation initiatives, in the face of continuing government funding reductions.

Residential and Community Care in the New Forest

The Panel has considered the significance of the Care Sector in the New Forest district, the constraints it faced, and assessed where the Council could provide practical assistance and support. The residential care sector accounts for 4000 local jobs, equating to 5.8% of the New Forest workforce. The Panel agreed that the Council should use its existing relationships with local colleges, networks and care sector businesses to act as 'honest broker' to help ensure that businesses are accessing the full range of support available to them. Further work will be undertaken, including a facilitated meeting with sector representatives, to explore the potential for collaboration in sharing best practice amongst care sector businesses, and developing the skills of employees through training that is accessible to them. Updates will be brought to the Panel as necessary.

Hospitality Sector

The Panel has monitored progress on a programme of work identified by the Task and Finish group to assist the hospitality sector, through the New Forest Tourism Association and Hotel Group, Brockenhurst College and Bournemouth University.

Marine and Engineering Sector

In 2017/18 the Panel will be turning its attention to supporting and encouraging marine and engineering sector companies in the New Forest in exporting their goods and services.

Vibrant Towns and Villages

As part of the Panel's efforts to support local business and improve the vibrancy of towns and village centres, a series of town and village workshops were held in September and October to gain a better understanding of the issues impacting local retail centres and to identify ways in which these barriers could be overcome through collaborative working. A number of outcomes and recurring themes were identified including: town and village centre planning, identifying and sharing best practice, skills and digital training, innovation and transformation, Brand New Forest and broadband. The Council will assist partners in addressing these wherever possible.

Broadband Provision in the New Forest

The Panel will be holding a further session in May with BT Openreach and Hampshire County Council to review progress with Broadband provision in the District, in view of the importance of fast broadband to business and residential users. A toolkit developed with the help of the Council to assist rural communities to provide self-funded broadband projects was launched in 2016.

Commercial Property Investment

The Panel considered a proposed income generation strategy through commercial property investment, either for the purpose of economic development or regeneration within the District, or for the purpose of income generation for the provision of services, or a mixture of both. An indicative example given suggested that an investment of £25m funded by borrowing on a repayment basis may be required to achieve a net annual profit of £500k (after allowing for borrowing costs) based on a 6% gross target yield. Many other local authorities were now investing in this way and part of the exercise was to learn from other councils, which included a visit to Guilford Borough Council as well as contact with various others. The Panel supported the overall approach, which was later agreed in detail by the Cabinet, and the Panel will receive progress reports.

Review of Tourism Services

After careful consideration, the Panel considered and supported recommendations to the Cabinet on two aspects of the Council's tourism service – the Visitor Information Service (VIC) at Lyndhurst and the Tourism Association.

The Council felt that the tourism business sector should take responsibility for determining the way in which the New Forest is marketed and promoted as a destination to visitors for the benefit of business.

The Council will provide assistance to the Tourism Association in terms of the initial set up and for the first 3 years of the new arrangements. After this the Council would expect the Association or Company to be able to fully fund its activities. The new arrangement required the establishment of a new Company in order to carry out activities including receiving the transitional funding which the Council will make available from April 2017 until March 2020.

These two initiatives will reduce Council expenditure by approximately £160,000 per year.

Economic Development Team

The Panel has considered the future work and priorities of the NFDC's Economic Development Team (ED), and has made recommendations to the Cabinet.

The Council's objectives for the new ED team will be set out in a draft Strategic Economic Plan for the District, which will be shared with all partners. It will include support for the New Forest Business Partnership and expanded business sector engagement, the development of a New Forest Business First public sector partnership that maximises the benefits for local business, including external investment.

Budget Task and Finish Group

The Panel received the annual report of the Budget Task and Finish Group. The work of the Group included meetings with Portfolio Holders to scrutinise proposals and offer assurance on behalf of all Members of the Council.

The Group were pleased that a number of their last year's recommendations had been adopted and progressed. The Group were impressed at the clear shift of all Portfolios towards a more business-led approach and a strong theme of business development. The changes arising from corporate re-structuring and service reviews, both of which had delivered significant savings and which were ongoing, were supported. The Group encouraged the Cabinet to seek further opportunities for provision of services in collaboration with other authorities, as well as increasing income generation by offering the Council's services to other organisations, where practicable.

Customer Services Review Task and Finish Group

The Customer Services Review Task and Finish Group is overseeing work to transform the way customers access our services, through the better use of digital service delivery. The project is looking at increased efficiency of processes and improving the customer experience through website development, looking at top transactions and processes. The project will require investment. It is anticipated that the review will result in financial efficiencies. The Panel is being kept informed on progress.

ICT Strategy

The Panel received the new ICT Strategy for the next 12-18 months. The strategy covered measures to protect and maintain front-line services, wireless connectivity, collaboration with external organisations, proposed staff structure, the project's portfolio / asset renewal programme, operating model, and Members' ICT. The Panel was very supportive of the Strategy and asked for an annual update, with brief progress reports mid-year.

Performance Management

The Panel received a presentation on performance and productivity covering the Performance Management Framework, service performance, employee performance, and pay and performance.

Electoral Review Task and Finish Group

In response to a Council decision, the Panel has established an Electoral Review Task and Finish Group to make recommendations on whether the Council should request the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to undertake a review of NFDC with a view to reducing the number of members on the Council. The Group will meet again in the autumn, so that Local Plan projected population growth figures can be factored into the population of prospective wards for any potential schemes.

Citizens' Advice Bureau (CAB) Grant Task and Finish Group

The Panel has agreed to form a Task and Finish Group to review the future Relationship, as well as funding and other support and advice for the New Forest CAB. The Group will make recommendations for 2018/19.

Key Actions and Service Review Programme

The Panel has regularly received progress reports on the corporate service review programme for all portfolios. A recent report identified related savings totalling £446,000.

Promotion of Film and TV Production in the New Forest.

'Film:New Forest' (FNF), NFDC's partnership with Creative England to encourage filming in the area, has had a successful first year. Following a Task and Finish group recommendation to encourage filming in the Forest, and the signing of a 4 year partnership agreement with Creative England, related events have been held, including a crew evening involving 100 people from a number of organisations, as well as a Locations event to inform owners and land managers about the potential benefits and opportunities of working with television and film companies. FNF representatives were present at the Film Expo South event to publicise the Forest as a film venue. There is some evidence that the project may already have led to significant investment from the sector. The Panel will be kept informed of progress.

Other Matters Considered

- Housing White Paper
- Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2017/18
- Asset Maintenance and Replacement Programme
- Financial Updates

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