

**8 MARCH 2018**

**NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL**

Minutes of a meeting of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel held in Committee Room 1, Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Thursday, 8 March 2018

- \* Cllr W S Rippon-Swaine (Chairman)
- \* Cllr Ms L C Ford (Vice-Chairman)

**Councillors:**

- \* P J Armstrong
- \* Mrs S M Bennison
- G R Blunden
- \* Mrs F Carpenter

**Councillors:**

- \* A T Glass
- \* Mrs R Matcham
- \* J M Olliff-Cooper
- \* D M S Poole

\*Present

**In attendance:**

**Councillors:**

Mrs A J Hoare (Portfolio Holder,  
Environment and Regulatory Services)

**Officers Attending:**

Miss J Debnam, Mrs L Evans, Mrs R Higgins, S Jones, Mrs J McClay, Ms S Parry,  
C Read and C Noble

**Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Blunden and also Cllr E J Heron  
(Planning and Infrastructure Portfolio Holder)

**33 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2018 be signed by the  
Chairman as a correct record.

**34 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made by any member in connection with an  
agenda item.

**35 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No issues were raised in the public participation period.

**36 PORTFOLIO HOLDERS' REPORTS**

Cllr E J Heron, the Planning and Infrastructure Portfolio Holder was unable to attend and had requested the Service Manager (Policy and Strategy) to present the information that he wished to report to the Panel.

Work on the Local Plan was progressing with some evidence-based work by consultants yet to be received. This work was on air quality, water quality and a viability study to inform the level of developer's contribution for affordable housing. This latter viability study was expected within the following few days.

Members were reminded that their final informal briefing session on the Local Plan would be held on 20 March and this would be the final opportunity for them to influence the Plan, prior to its submission to the Cabinet and the Council for approval on Wednesday 6 June 2018.

The Panel's attention was drawn to recent government announcements on measures to improve the delivery of additional house building, which included the publication of 5 consultation documents on 5 March. The most significant of these included some proposed policy changes that were of significance to the Council and were currently being evaluated. In general terms the direction of travel of government policy remained broadly similar, which suggested that no major changes would be needed by this Council. Some of the proposed policies looked potentially helpful, while others could be problematic. It was likely that the Council would submit a response to the consultation prior to the deadline of 10 May.

The Panel was advised that the Portfolio Holder was intending to take a Portfolio Holder's decision with respect to the fees and charges for the transportation function. Increases were necessary to respond to the significant reduction in funding from the County Council; and also to bring this Council more into line with the charges levied by other authorities in Hampshire for temporary road closures.

In answer to questions the Panel was advised that, following the concerns expressed at their last meeting about a potential shortfall of parking in Hythe following the closure of the St John's Street car park in early April, some initial preparatory work, such as evaluation of the existing surface and investigation of the need for planning consent, had been done to increase capacity elsewhere in the village.

Cllr Hoare, the Environment and Regulatory Services Portfolio Holder, thanked all the Council's Operations staff, particularly the Street Scene and Waste Collection teams, for their work to maintain services and also keep essential town centres, car parks and footpaths open for the public during the recent snow and icy conditions. She also commended the Cemeteries staff who had managed to ensure that 2 burials scheduled for Friday had still been able to go ahead.

Cllr Hoare was pleased to report that the work to recharge Hurst Spit had started and was progressing well, and the work to recharge Milford beach would start at the end of April.

An anti-idling campaign had been launched in Lyndhurst to encourage drivers to turn their engines off when queuing in Lyndhurst. Posters were on display; the bus companies had undertaken to comply by their drivers turning off bus engines while queuing; and parents at the primary school would be using the longer, cleaner air route, through the church yard in order to walk to school. The poster had been

designed by a pupil at Hounsdown School. The Portfolio Holder particularly thanked the Environmental Protection Manager for bringing this project to fruition.

Twenty seven New Forest Spring Clean events had now been organised; although sadly all but the Ashurst Bridge event scheduled for the previous weekend had been cancelled because of the poor weather conditions. It was hoped that they would be rescheduled for later in the Spring.

The Portfolio Holder advised the Panel that she would be appointing a member advisory group to assist her in finalising the draft business case on this Council's actions to implement to Southampton Clean Air Zone for submission to Government by the end of March. There was very tight timetable for finalising this document as key information would not be received from Southampton City Council until 15 March. She proposed to invite the 2 local ward councillors (Cllrs L Harris and Harrison). Cllr Glass and Cllr Bennison volunteered to sit on the working group, with Cllr Carpenter as a reserve.

### **37 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME 2018/19**

The Panel considered the proposed traffic management programme for 2018/19. It was noted that the severe reduction in resources available to this Council and the County Council meant that strict criteria were now applied effectively limiting potential works to casualty reduction. This Council's staffing resource was now also limited to one highways engineer to develop projects.

The programme of work attached at Appendix 1 updated the interim programme that had been approved in June 2017 and added those new projects agreed at traffic management meetings with ward councillors and local councils. Each project had been assessed and rated as high, medium or low priority based on the scoring against the County Council's criteria. As part of this scoring the 5 year accident record and, where available, speed recordings were used. Five new projects had been accorded a high score, 5 as medium and 3 low, with 17 referred to the County Council as not satisfying the criteria.

The cost of implementing the proposed programme would be met from existing budgets, except for those schemes where a charge was made to the applicants, such as for access protection markings.

#### **RESOLVED:**

- a) That the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Infrastructure be advised that this Panel supports the Traffic Management Programme for period until 31 March 2019, as set out in Appendix 1 to Report Item 5 to the Panel; and recommends that the programme is implemented, subject to detailed design work and careful consideration of objections to proposals that require statutory public advertisement; and
- b) That the Service Manager (Policy and Strategy), in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Infrastructure be authorised to amend the traffic management programme should a specific need arise.

### **38 PROJECT INTEGRA ACTION PLAN**

The Panel considered the Project Integra Action Plan to cover the period 2018-2021. The Plan was being submitted to each of the partner organisations for

endorsement. Once adopted the Plan was the mandate for the Project Integra Strategy Board to operate. It also set out the cost of running the partnership, and the division between partners, based on the number of households in their administrative area. It was noted that the overall cost to this Council was £15,225 while the Council was expected to receive £418,000 income from dry mixed recyclables and £66,000 from glass recycling.

The Panel was advised that there had been a meeting with Therese Coffey, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, shortly after the January Panel meeting. They had held a short, but useful conversation. While she was focussed on Hampshire being a relatively poor performer with respect to recycling rates, she recognised that they had extremely good performance in not using landfill for disposal. It was anticipated that Defra would be publishing a Waste Resources Strategy later in the year, and this was reflected in Section 3 of the Action Plan.

Members requested that consideration be given to organising a visit to the Materials Recycling Facility, particularly for those Panel members who had not previously visited.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Portfolio Holder be advised that this Panel supports the Project Integra Action Plan, as attached as Appendix 1 to Report Item 6, and would commend its approval.

**39 PEST CONTROL SERVICE**

The Panel was advised that, following the transfer of the pest control service to the Open Spaces team of the Operations service a review was underway to reduce the cost of running the service which was currently £90,000 per annum.

Of particular note was that benchmarking had established that the current charges were 85% lower than neighbouring authorities and 300% lower than the private sector. It was proposed to increase charges over the next 2 years to bring them more in line with neighbouring authorities, while still remaining cheaper than the private sector. As a consequence the cost of a call-out, survey and 3 follow up visits would increase from £45.83 to £85 in respect of rodents. Costs for the treatment of wasps would increase by 6%.

The charging structure for businesses was changing, with the initial call out and survey followed by a quote based on the hours the job was anticipated to take.

At present 15% of visits by the pest control officers were to this Council's housing; 50% to private dwellings; 30% to schools and businesses; and 5% to offices and depots.

Members were advised that the pest control service worked closely with the Environmental Health Officers on issues such as the safety of premises selling food. The Council could not however require a business to use this Council's pest control service to remedy an infestation. The Council could only require action to be taken to eliminate the pests, which could be done by a private enterprise.

Once the effect of the increases in fees was known, and had been reported through the normal budget monitoring processes, consideration would be given to the staffing structure.

The Panel noted that the Portfolio Holder for the Environment and Regulatory Affairs was intending to make a Portfolio Holder's decision to give effect to the increase in charges for the pest control service.

#### **40 AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT**

The Panel received a brief update on work to introduce a clean air zone in Southampton, which affected a 1 km stretch of the A35 in this District leading up to the boundary with Southampton. The officers continued to work closely with colleagues at Southampton City Council and other regulatory bodies on this significant body of work. The key points for the coming months were:

- DEFRA/JAQU (Joint Air Quality Unit (Defra and Department of Transport)). had laid out a tight timetable to undertake studies to identify measures to reduce any exceedances
- A Ministerial Direction required this Council to submit the Outline Business Case to Defra by 31 March 2018
- A working group lead by Cllr Hoare would review the outline business case prior to submission on 23 March
- A workshop would be held on 15 March 2018 with JAQU, Southampton City Council, this Council and the consultants engaged to assist with the process to review the results and work on draft outline business case
- Work was underway on Governance timetable for the process – with a likely consultation process once the Government reviewed outline business case.
- Full Business Case must be submitted by 15 September 2018 and detail the preferred option(s) together with the actions to implement the option(s)
- Prior to submission of the full business case there would be further Member briefings, and report would be submitted to Cabinet and Full Council

The Panel noted the progress being made.

#### **41 CORPORATE FRAMEWORK**

The Panel noted the timetable for their consideration of the Local Plan and the Environmental Strategy.

#### **42 WORK PROGRAMME**

The Panel considered their work programme to guide activities over the coming months.

With respect to the Contaminated Land Strategy it was agreed that a task and finish group should be appointed to review the draft strategy document and make recommendations on further actions such as training for councillors. The most significant contaminated site in the District was Eling Wharf and it was therefore agreed that Cllrs L Harris and Harrison should be invited to sit on this working group as the local ward councillors; together with Cllrs Armstrong, Bennison and Matcham from the Panel and one other member drawn from the wider Council.

**RESOLVED:**

That the work programme attached as Appendix 1 to these minutes be approved.

CHAIRMAN

## ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL – 8 MARCH 2018.

## WORK PROGRAMME

14 JUNE 2018			
Food Safety Inspections	To receive an update on performance with respect to food safety inspections and the effect of the “Scores on the Doors” programme	Officer Report	Jo McClay/Ben Stockley
Food Safety Service Plan	To consider the service plan.	Officer report	Jo McClay/Ben Stockley
Coastal Funding	To evaluate the Government’s new funding system for coast protection works and to look at options.  Interim report	Task and Finish Group	Steve Cook.
Contaminated Land Strategy	To consider the Council’s Strategy	Report of task and finish group	Jo McClay/Rachel Higgins
Air Quality - Update	To receive an update with respect to Air Quality in the District and the development of the proposed Action Plan for the Southampton Clean Air Zone.	Officer report	Jo McClay/Rachel Higgins
Kerbside Glass Collection	To evaluate the effect of the introduction of text messaging alerts and promotion	Officer report	Colin Read
Fuel/Emission Efficient Vehicles	To be updated on options for the Council’s Fleet and the	Officer report	Colin Read

	establishment of the necessary support infrastructure (Rapid Charging Points)		
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ITEM	OBJECTIVE	METHOD	LEAD OFFICER
<b>13 SEPTEMBER 2018</b>			
Local Plan - Update	To be briefed on matters raised in representations received on the Local Plan following Publication and prior to formal Submission	Officer Report	Louise Evans

ITEM	OBJECTIVE	METHOD	LEAD OFFICER
<b>15 NOVEMBER 2018</b>			

ITEM	OBJECTIVE	METHOD	LEAD OFFICER
<b>10 JANUARY 2019</b>			
Environmental Strategy	To consider the draft environmental strategy that will develop an overarching framework for the Council's environmental activities	Officer report	Colin Read