

5 SEPTEMBER 2018

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held in the Council Chamber, Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Wednesday, 5 September 2018

- * Cllr B Rickman (Chairman)
- * Cllr E J Heron (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors:

- * Mrs D E Andrews
- * J E Binns
- * Mrs J L Cleary

Councillors:

- * M R Harris
- * J D Heron
- * Mrs A J Hoare

*Present

In attendance:

Councillors:

W G Andrews
P J Armstrong
Mrs S M Bennison
G R Blunden
S P Davies
A T Glass
M Langdale

Councillors:

A D O'Sullivan
N S Penman
L R Puttock
M A Steele
D N Tungate
C A Wise

Officers Attending:

R Jackson, Miss G O'Rourke, C Read, Mrs M Sandhu, A Bethune, Miss J Debnam and Mrs S Hamilton

Apologies:

None were received.

26 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 1 August 2018 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

27 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

28 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No issues were raised in the public participation period.

29 FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT (BASED ON PERFORMANCE APRIL TO JULY 2018 INCLUSIVE)

The Cabinet was advised of the current position with respect to the General Fund, Capital and Housing Revenue Account budgets, based on performance to July 2018.

As a result of additional savings and income of £577,000, which had been partially offset by new requirements of £102,000 and the rephasing of £606,000 of expenditure from 2017/18 into 2018/19, the General Fund budget had reduced from £17.243 million to £16.768 million. Further details on each of the key variations were set out in Section 3 of the report.

The Cabinet supported additional expenditure of £80,000 for car park maintenance and equipment. It was however expected that, as car park income was currently ahead of the year to date profile, over the full year there would be no net increase in this budget.

It was noted that the Capital Programme had increased from £26.225 million to £27.985 million to reflect the rephasing of expenditure from 2017/18. Further details were set out in paragraph 4.2 of the report.

The Housing Revenue Account was now expected to benefit from savings of £250,000 against the maintenance budget as a result of efficiencies in the delivery of cyclical maintenance and rephasing the decoration of properties that were still in good condition.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the latest budget forecasts for the General Fund, Capital and Housing Revenue Accounts, as set out in paragraphs 3.2, 4.1 and 5.1 of Report item 1 to the Cabinet, be noted; and
- (b) That the new budget requirement of £80,000 for car park maintenance and equipment be approved.

30 THE FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF THE PLANNING SERVICE

The Cabinet considered the future management arrangements for the Planning Service, following the National Park Authority's decision not to explore joint arrangements with this Council.

The Cabinet was satisfied that the Planning Service was integral to the delivery of many of the Council's functions and that the developing Local Plan would see increasing levels of development that must take place in a manner that delivered high quality, sustainable and vibrant communities. Affordable housing was a particular priority in this area. This required a clear "plan led" approach and the Service needed to be sufficiently robust to deliver the Council's aspirations. In accordance with the recommendations of the Royal Town Planning Institute it was therefore proposed to recruit a Chief Planning Officer at a senior level, comparable to an Executive Head. It was proposed to use an external recruitment agency to

undertake the recruitment process, in consultation with the Council's Human Resources team.

RESOLVED:

That a Chief Planning Officer be recruited to lead the Council's Planning Service, as set out in Report Item 5 to the Cabinet.

31 OUTSIDE BODY APPOINTMENT

RESOLVED:

That Cllr Sevier be appointed as one of this Council's representatives on the New Forest National Park Authority, in the place of former Cllr Jackman.

CHAIRMAN