



**New Forest**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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# Council Meeting Agenda

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**12 April 2021**



# SUMMONS

To All Members of the Council

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the District Council to be held in Microsoft Teams - Online on Monday, 12 April 2021, at 6.30 pm



**Bob Jackson**  
Chief Executive

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

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

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# AGENDA

## Apologies

**1. MINUTES (Pages 5 - 66)**

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2021 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. ACTING LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**5. REPORT OF THE CABINET**

To consider the report of the Cabinet dated 7 April 2021 (to follow).

**6. REPORT OF THE HR COMMITTEE (Pages 67 - 68)**

To consider the report of the HR Committee dated 18 March 2021.

**7. QUESTIONS**

Under Standing Order 22.

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

To ask questions of Portfolio Holders. Questions received will be tabled at the meeting. (Members are reminded that questions must be submitted to the Chief Executive or to the Executive Head of Governance and Housing by not later than 12.00 noon, Friday 9 April 2021.

**9. EARLY RETIREMENT OF EXECUTIVE HEAD OF OPERATIONS (DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE) (Pages 69 - 70)**

To consider a request from the Executive Head of Operations (Deputy Chief Executive) for early retirement of the grounds of efficiency.

**10. NOMINATIONS FOR THE OFFICES OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL**

To consider and make recommendations to the Council on 17 May 2021 for election/appointment to the offices of Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council for the following municipal year.

The Conservative Group has nominated Cllr Tipp for election to the office of Chairman and Cllr O'Sullivan to the office of Vice-Chairman.

The Liberal Democrat Group has nominated Cllr Rackham for election to the office of Chairman and the office of Vice-Chairman.

**11. ELECTION OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

To elect a Leader of the Council for the remainder of the four year period ending May 2023.

**12. ADDITIONAL MEETING DATE**

**RECOMMENDED:**

That the Council agrees a provisional date of 6.30 pm, Monday 14 June 2021 as an Extraordinary Council meeting, subject to the outcome of the New Milton Neighbourhood Plan referendum, scheduled to take place in May 2021.

**13. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS**

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

## **14. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT**

### **NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL – VIRTUAL MEETINGS**

#### **Background**

This meeting is being held virtually with all participants accessing via Microsoft Teams.

A live stream will be available on YouTube to allow the press and public to view meetings in real time and can also be found at the relevant meeting page on the Council's website, with this published agenda.

#### **Principles for all meetings**

The Chairman will read out Ground Rules at the start of the meeting for the benefit of all participants. All normal procedures for meetings apply as far as practicable, as the Government Regulations do not amend any of the Council's existing Standing Orders.

The Ground Rules for all virtual meetings will include, but are not limited to, the following:-

- All participants are reminded that virtual public meetings are being broadcast live on YouTube and will be available for repeated viewing. Please be mindful of your camera and microphone setup and the images and sounds that will be broadcast on public record.
- All participants are asked to mute their microphones when not speaking to reduce feedback and background noise. Please only unmute your microphone and speak when invited to do so by the Chairman.
- Councillors in attendance that have not indicated their wish to speak in advance of the meeting can make a request to speak during the meeting by using the "raise hand" feature in Microsoft Teams. Requests will be managed by the Chairman with support from Democratic Services. Please remember to "lower hand" when you have finished speaking.
- The chat facility should not be used unless raising a point of order or providing the wording for a motion.
- All participants are asked to refer to the report number and page number within the agenda and reports pack so that there is a clear understanding of what is being discussed at all times.

#### **Voting**

When voting is required on a particular item, each councillor on the committee will be called to vote in turn by name, expressing their vote verbally. The outcome will be announced to the meeting. A recorded vote will not be reflected in the minutes of the meeting unless this is requested in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders.

By casting their vote, councillors do so in the acknowledgement that they were present for the duration of the item in question.

#### **Technology**

If individuals experience technical issues, the meeting will continue providing that it is quorate and it is still practical to do so. The Chairman will adjourn the meeting if technical issues cause the meeting to be inquorate, the live stream technology fails, or continuing is not practical.

# Agenda Item 1

25 FEBRUARY 2021

## NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the New Forest District Council held on Thursday, 25 February 2021

- \* Cllr Allan Glass (Chairman)
- \* Cllr Derek Tipp (Vice-Chairman)

### Councillors:

- \* Alan Alvey
- \* Diane Andrews
- \* Ann Bellows
- \* Sue Bennison
- \* Geoffrey Blunden
- \* Hilary Brand
- \* Alex Brunsdon
- \* Fran Carpenter
- \* Louise Cerasoli
- \* Mark Clark
- \* Rebecca Clark
- \* Steve Clarke
- \* Jill Cleary
- \* Anne Corbridge
- \* Keith Craze
- \* Kate Crisell
- \* Jack Davies
- \* Steve Davies
- \* Arthur Davis
- \* Sandra Delemare
- \* Philip Dowd
- \* Jan Duke
- \* Barry Dunning
- \* Jacqui England
- \* Andrew Gossage
- \* Michael Harris
- \* David Harrison
- \* David Hawkins
- \* Edward Heron

### Councillors:

- \* Jeremy Heron
- \* Alison Hoare
- \* Maureen Holding
- \* Christine Hopkins
- \* Mahmoud Kangarani
- \* Joshua Kidd
- \* Emma Lane
- \* Martyn Levitt
- \* Alexis McEvoy
- \* Ian Murray
- \* Alan O'Sullivan
- \* Stephanie Osborne
- \* Neville Penman
- \* Caroline Rackham
- \* Alvin Reid
- \* Joe Reilly
- \* Barry Rickman
- \* Tony Ring
- \* Steve Rippon-Swaine
- \* David Russell
- \* Ann Sevier
- \* Mark Steele
- \* Michael Thierry
- \* Beverley Thorne
- \* Neil Tungate
- \* Alex Wade
- \* Malcolm Wade
- \* Christine Ward
- \* John Ward

\*Present

### Officers Attending:

Bob Jackson, Alan Bethune, Sara Hamilton, Grainne O'Rourke, Sheryl Parry, Colin Read, Daniel Reynafarje, Andy Rogers, Manjit Sandhu, Claire Upton-Brown, Karen Wardle and Matt Wisdom.

### Apologies:

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Duke, England, Hawkins, Lane, Reid, Thorne and J Ward.

Cllr England's apology was due to technical difficulties accessing the Microsoft Teams meeting.

## 115 MINUTES

### RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2020, be confirmed.

## 116 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of any disclosable pecuniary interests by Members.

The Chairman confirmed that all Members of the Council had been granted the necessary dispensations to speak and vote on matters concerning the Annual Members' Allowances Scheme, Annual Budget and Council Tax.

Cllr Thorne had been granted a dispensation to speak and vote on the Housing Revenue Account Budget and Housing Public Sector Capital Expenditure Programme 2021/22, considered at minute 124 below. Cllr Thorne was not in attendance.

Cllr A Wade highlighted the previous non-pecuniary declarations of interests of Members in respect of Community Grants 2021/22, as outlined in the report of the Cabinet dated 3 February 2021. The decision had been made by the Cabinet to approve a range of revenue and capital grants for inclusion in the Medium Term Financial Plan and Annual Budget. These interests did not require further declaration.

Cllrs Brand and Kangarani, for transparency purposes, declared interests as local business owners in respect of the proposed suspension of car parking charges outlined in the motion considered at minute 123 below.

## 117 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Stan Wade

The Chairman referred with sadness to the recent passing of former Councillor Stan Wade on 16 February 2021 and the tributes paid by the Leader of the Council at the Cabinet meeting the following day.

Stan represented the Dibden and Hythe North Ward from 1979-2003 and the Dibden and Hythe East ward from 2003-2015, holding the position of Chairman of the Council in 1995/96. Stan served on many Committees, most notably the General Purposes and Licensing Committee from 2001-2015, the Planning Committee from 2007-2011 and a range of Overview and Scrutiny Committees. Stan held the position of Vice-Chairman of the Leisure Services Committee from 1996 – 1999. Stan also served on a number of Outside Bodies, representing the District Council on the National Park Authority and a number of local Waterside initiatives.

The Chairman highlighted the incredible legacy of Stan in having both a son and grandson as serving Members of the Council in Cllrs Malcolm and Alex Wade. The Chairman knew Stan personally and considered that he had lost a great colleague.

On behalf of the Council, the Chairman recorded his sincere condolences to Stan's family and friends and placed on record the Council's thanks for the eminent service of Stan.

Members of the Council, including Cllrs Malcolm and Alex Wade, added their tributes to Stan.

### **Community Award – Cllr Penman**

The Chairman was delighted to inform the Council that Cllr Penman was to be the successful recipient of a High Sheriff of Hampshire Community Award, for his great work to help vulnerable and disadvantaged people in the Totton area. Cllr Penman would in due course be presented with a certificate in a socially distanced manner.

On behalf of the Council, the Chairman offered his congratulations to Cllr Penman on this achievement, recognised for going above and beyond the call of duty to help those in need in the community.

### **New Forest MENCAP**

The Chairman informed Members that he was delighted to have been able to attend the virtual AGM of New Forest MENCAP, as Honorary President, on 15 February 2021.

### **General**

The Chairman highlighted his intention to ask the Council to suspend Standing Order 47.6 to allow the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition to exceed the time limit of five minutes on their speeches under the Annual Budget item.

Members were reminded that a number of recorded votes would need to be taken in accordance with the law.

As there was a substantial amount of complex business on the agenda, the Chairman requested the support and cooperation of Members with the Council's Ground Rules for virtual meetings, to help with the smooth running of the meeting.

### **Change to Running Order**

The Chairman confirmed that he would use his discretion to make an adjustment to the running order of agenda items. As item 11 on the agenda set out a motion which had significant implications for the debate and decision of the Council's Annual Budget, he considered that it would assist in the running of the meeting if the motion was taken immediately before the reports of the Cabinet at item 9.

## **118 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were none.

**119 REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Cllr O'Sullivan presented the report of the Audit Committee meeting held on 29 January 2021, and moved the adoption of the recommendations. Cllr Alvey seconded the motion.

**RESOLVED:**

That the report be received and the recommendations be adopted.

**120 REPORT OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE**

Cllr Clarke presented the report of the General Purposes and Licensing Committee meeting held on 8 January 2021, and moved the adoption of the recommendations. Cllr Tungate seconded the motion.

**RESOLVED:**

That the report be received and the recommendations be adopted.

**121 REPORT OF THE HR COMMITTEE**

The Leader of the Council presented the report of the HR Committee meeting held on 14 January 2021, and moved the adoption of the recommendations. Cllr Steele seconded the motion.

**RESOLVED:**

That the report be received and the recommendations be adopted.

**122 REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL**

Cllr Rippon-Swaine presented the report of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel dated 14 January 2021, and moved the adoption of the recommendation set out on the Council agenda, to note the Panel's conclusions in respect of the Call-In request, as outlined in the report. Cllr Bennison seconded the motion.

In response to a question regarding the process for implementing a decision that had been called in, the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Infrastructure confirmed that as the decision had received a single call-in request, it was implemented in accordance with the Council's procedures and placed on the agenda for the next ordinary meeting of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel. In this case, the relevant Panel was the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel and the report before the Council was to note the outcome of that meeting.

**RESOLVED:**

That the conclusions of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel in respect of the Call-In request, as outlined in the report, be noted.



**123 NOTICE OF MOTION - SUSPENSION OF CAR PARKING CHARGES**

The Chairman of the Council used his discretion to take this item ahead of the reports of the Cabinet, in view of the significant implications for the annual budget of the motion.

In accordance with Standing Order 21, Cllr M Wade moved the following motion:-

*“In response to the dire local economic situation for both New Forest District businesses and New Forest residents brought about by the Covid 19 pandemic and the resulting lockdowns. In order to support and stimulate local retailers and businesses, encourage New Forest residents to shop locally and help local people, this District Council will from the end of the current lockdown suspend for six months car parking charges in its town centre car parks.”*

Cllr Osborne seconded the motion.

The Chairman confirmed that, in his opinion, it was convenient and conducive to the despatch of business to deal with the motion at this Council meeting.

Members debated the motion. Those speaking in support cited the impact of the pandemic on the local economy, including the likelihood that as confidence steadily grew to revisit town centres, this was likely to be by private car until social distancing measures were eased and public transport was again more viable for local people. The suspension of car parking charges for a temporary period was considered a vital boost in what would be extremely challenging times.

The Portfolio Holder for Planning and Infrastructure highlighted his concern for the future of local businesses, particularly those small and medium sized enterprises. However, he concluded that the suspension of car parking charges was not in the interest of all New Forest residents, considering the impact on the Council's finances to deliver across its range of services and with a parking clock an affordable way for people to park across all District car parks. Some Members speaking against the motion highlighted the significant support provided to local businesses through grant schemes and this would continue. There were concerns raised about the use of £1.4 million of reserves and any future requirement for use of reserves.

The motion was put to the vote and lost.

Note – Cllrs J Davies, Osborne and Rackham requested that their votes in favour of the motion above, be recorded.

**124 REPORTS OF THE CABINET**

All Members of the Council had been granted a dispensation to speak and vote on matters concerning the Members' Allowances Scheme, Annual Budget and Council Tax.

The Leader of the Council presented the report of the Cabinet meeting held on 3 February 2021 and moved the adoption of the recommendations. Cllr E Heron seconded the motion.

**Paragraph 2 – Proposed Implementation of Restrictions Contained in S157 Housing Act 1985 to Restrict Onward Disposals of Council Properties Sold Under the Right To Buy (RTB) in Designated Rural Areas, National Park and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty within the New Forest District Council Administrative Area (Minute No 159)**

Members spoke in support of this initiative in supporting the rural communities of the New Forest and in turn helping to deliver more housing for local people.

**Paragraph 3 – Freeports Bid (Minute No 160)**

The Deputy Leader of the Council highlighted the importance of this work and congratulated the Leader of the Council on his election to the Solent LEP Board, which would only be good for businesses of the New Forest in having local representation at a regional level.

**Paragraph 4 – Community Grants 2021/22 (Minute No 161)**

A Member of the Community Grants Task and Finish Group highlighted the significant work of the Group to arrive at a robust set of recommendations, which were agreed by the Cabinet for inclusion in the Annual Budget.

**RESOLVED:**

That the report be received and the recommendations be adopted.

The Leader of the Council then presented the report of the Cabinet meeting held on 17 February 2021 and moved the adoption of the recommendations. Cllr E Heron seconded the motion.

**Paragraph 2 – Housing Revenue Account Budget and Housing Public Sector Capital Expenditure Programme 2021/22 (Minute No 170)**

The recommendations of this item were put to a recorded vote, the outcome of which was as follows:-

Voting for:- Cllrs Alvey, Andrews, Bellows, Bennison, Blunden, Brand, Brunson, Carpenter, Cerasoli, R Clark, Clarke, Cleary, Corbridge, Craze, S Davies, Davis, Delemare, Dowd, Dunning, Glass, Gossage, Harris, Harrison, E Heron, J Heron, Hoare, Holding, Hopkins, Kangarani, Kidd, Levitt, McEvoy, Murray, O'Sullivan, Penman, Reilly, Rickman, Ring, Rippon-Swaine, Russell, Sevier, Steele, Thierry, Tipp, Tungate, A Wade and C Ward.

Voting against:- None.

Abstaining:- Cllrs M Clark, J Davies, Osborne, Rackham and M Wade.

The motion was carried, 47 in favour, none against, 5 abstaining.

**Paragraph 3 – Medium Term Financial Plan and Annual Budget 2021/22 (Minute No 171)**

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 budget speeches. The motion was seconded by the Vice-Chairman and carried.

The Leader of the Council made a statement on the budget as proposed in the report of the Cabinet dated 17 February 2021, including a Presentation, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

The Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group made a statement, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

The Council debated the Cabinet's budget proposals.

The recommendations of this item were put to a recorded vote, the outcome of which was as follows:-

Voting for:- Cllrs Alvey, Andrews, Bellows, Bennison, Blunden, Carpenter, Cerasoli, Clarke, Cleary, Corbridge, Craze, S Davies, Davis, Dunning, Glass, Gossage, Harris, E Heron, J Heron, Hoare, Holding, Hopkins, Kidd, Levitt, McEvoy, Murray, O'Sullivan, Penman, Reilly, Rickman, Ring, Rippon-Swaine, Russell, Sevier, Steele, Thierry, Tipp, Tungate and C Ward.

Voting against:- Cllrs Brand, Brunsdon, M Clark, R Clark, J Davies, Dowd, Harrison, Kangarani, Osborne, Rackham, A Wade and M Wade.

Abstaining:- Cllr Delemare.

The motion was carried, 39 in favour, 12 against, 1 abstaining.

#### **Paragraph 4 – Health and Leisure Review – Preferred Bidder (Minute No 172)**

The Council debated the recommendations on this item. Members speaking in favour of the recommendations cited the extensive work throughout the procurement process, monitored in detail by the Health and Leisure Review Task and Finish Group. The final proposals had been considered by the Community and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Panel at a special meeting. In Freedom Leisure, Members considered that a community focused partner had been identified. The Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Wellbeing referred to the petition debated by the Council in February 2020, and highlighted that the Council would continue to own the health and leisure buildings, and with the proposals to increase investment in the buildings, the service would be sustained for future generations.

Members speaking against the recommendations highlighted the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on risk management and uncertainty. Some Members suggested delaying any decision until such time as the demand for leisure centres could be established following the recovery from the pandemic.

Members of the Council paid tribute to the officers and staff involved in the historic running of the leisure centres in addition to the significant efforts throughout the review process.

The Leader of the Council responded to the debate and welcomed an exciting new beginning for one of the Council's key services.

The recommendations of this item were put to a recorded vote, the outcome of which was as follows:-

Voting for:- Cllrs Alvey, Andrews, Bellows, Bennison, Blunden, Carpenter, Cerasoli, Clarke, Cleary, Corbridge, S Davies, Davis, Dunning, Glass, Gossage, Harris, E Heron, J Heron, Hoare, Kidd, Levitt, McEvoy, Murray, O'Sullivan, Penman, Reilly, Rickman, Ring, Rippon-Swaine, Russell, Sevier, Steele, Thierry, Tipp, Tungate and C Ward.

Voting against:- Cllrs Brand, Brunsdon, M Clark, R Clark, J Davies, Delemare, Dowd, Harrison, Kangarani, Osborne, Rackham, A Wade and M Wade.

Abstaining:- None.

The motion was carried, 36 in favour, 13 against.

**RESOLVED:**

That the report be received and the recommendations be adopted.

**125 QUESTIONS**

There were none.

**126 NOTICE OF MOTION - LGBT+ HISTORY MONTH**

In accordance with Standing Order 21, Cllr J Davies moved the following motion:-

*"This Council notes:*

- *February is LGBT+ History Month; and*
- *the great strides our society has taken towards accepting and supporting the needs and rights of LGBT+ community, including the recognition of sexuality as a protected characteristic under equalities legislation; and*
- *that there are still huge challenges to be faced, including over a third of LGBT+ employees having experienced harassment or bullying at work.*

*This Council therefore resolves:*

- *to declare our support for the holding of a New Forest Pride event to celebrate the New Forest's LGBT+ Community; and*
- *to fly the rainbow flag at Appletree Court throughout the month of February in support of LGBT+ History Month; and*
- *to ensure that all Council services, both directly provided and through partners, are fully accessible to all, regardless of their sexuality or gender identity; and*
- *to work to provide at least one gender neutral toilet where possible in every public building, including public conveniences, owned or operated by the Council."*

Cllr A Wade seconded the motion.

The Chairman confirmed that, in his opinion, it was convenient and conducive to the despatch of business to deal with the motion at this Council meeting.

Many Members spoke in support of the motion, as a small gesture to promote the Council's inclusivity to all parts of society, regardless of their background. The Portfolio Holder for Environment and Regulatory Services highlighted the Council's commitment to single cubicles in Council public conveniences.

Those speaking against the motion suggested that the Council should not give official approval to any particular groups over others, and that the flying of a flag at Appletree Court should be reserved for those civic functions such as the Union flag.

The motion was put to a recorded vote, the outcome of which was as follows:-

Voting for:- Cllrs Andrews, Bellows, Blunden, Brand, Brunsdon, Carpenter, Cerasoli, M Clark, R Clark, Clarke, Cleary, Corbridge, Craze, J Davies, S Davies, Davis, Delemare, Dowd, Dunning, Glass, Gossage, Harris, Harrison, E Heron, J Heron, Hoare, Holding, Kidd, Murray, O'Sullivan, Osborne, Rackham, Rickman, Rippon-Swaine, Russell, Sevier, Steele, Thierry, Tungate, A Wade, M Wade and C Ward.

Voting against:- Cllrs Bennison, McEvoy and Tipp.

Abstaining: Cllrs Alvey, Kangarani, Penman, Reilly and Ring.

The motion was carried – 42 in favour, 3 against, 5 abstaining.

#### **RESOLVED:**

This Council notes:

- February is LGBT+ History Month; and
- the great strides our society has taken towards accepting and supporting the needs and rights of LGBT+ community, including the recognition of sexuality as a protected characteristic under equalities legislation; and
- that there are still huge challenges to be faced, including over a third of LGBT+ employees having experienced harassment or bullying at work.

This Council therefore resolves:

- to declare our support for the holding of a New Forest Pride event to celebrate the New Forest's LGBT+ Community; and
- to fly the rainbow flag at Appletree Court throughout the month of February in support of LGBT+ History Month; and
- to ensure that all Council services, both directly provided and through partners, are fully accessible to all, regardless of their sexuality or gender identity; and
- to work to provide at least one gender neutral toilet where possible in every public building, including public conveniences, owned or operated by the Council.

#### **127 QUESTIONS TO PORTFOLIO HOLDERS UNDER STANDING ORDER 22A**

Cllr E Heron declared, for transparency purposes, a non-pecuniary interest in questions 1 and 5, as a Hampshire County Councillor, National Park Authority Member and a Verderer.

Questions were put and answered under Standing Order 22A as follows:-

- Cllr Sevier to the Leader of the Council, Cllr Rickman on reducing animal deaths in the New Forest.
- Cllr Brand to the Leader of the Council, Cllr Rickman on proposals for an average speed camera system to protect animals on New Forest roads.

The Chairman, in view of the length of the meeting and the statutory business later on the agenda, used his discretion to arrange for the following questions to be dealt with in writing:-

- Cllr Thierry to the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, Cllr Harris, on government support to local businesses.
- Cllr Rackham to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Regulatory Services, Cllr Hoare, on recycling rates.
- Cllr J Davies to the Portfolio Holder for Housing Services, Cllr Cleary, on homeless children in temporary accommodation.
- Cllr Brunsdon to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Infrastructure, Cllr E Heron, on the impact of proposed planning reforms on the neighbourhood plan process.
- Cllr M Wade to the Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Wellbeing, Cllr Steele, on the future plans for improving the mental health and wellbeing of New Forest residents.
- Cllr M Clark to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Regulatory Services, Cllr Hoare, on coastal erosion.
- Cllr A Wade to the Leader of the Council, Cllr Rickman, on local democracy.
- Cllr Kangarani to the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, Cllr Harris, on broadband provision in the New Forest.
- Cllr A Wade to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Infrastructure, Cllr E Heron, on planning applications.
- Cllr M Clark to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Infrastructure, Cllr E Heron, on the VIVID housing development in Hythe.

Note:-

A copy of the full questions and replies are attached to these minutes.

## **128 COUNCIL TAX 2021/22**

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

The Council considered the Council Tax for 2021/22.

The recommendations contained within the report were moved by the Chairman with a minor amendment, to replace all references to "Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority" with "Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Authority", which would come into being on 1 April 2021.

The Vice-Chairman seconded the motion.

The recommendations, as amended were put to a recorded vote, the outcome of which was as follows:-

Voting for:- Cllrs Alvey, Andrews, Bellows, Bennison, Blunden, Carpenter, Cerasoli, Clarke, Cleary, Corbridge, Craze, S Davies, Davis, Dunning, Glass, Gossage, Harris, E Heron, J Heron, Hoare, Holding, Kidd, Levitt, McEvoy, O'Sullivan, Penman, Reilly, Rickman, Ring, Rippon-Swaine, Russell, Sevier, Steele, Thierry, Tipp, Tungate and C Ward.

Voting against:- Cllrs Brand, Brunsdon, M Clark, R Clark, J Davies, Delemare, Harrison, Kangarani, Osborne, Rackham, A Wade and M Wade.

Abstaining:- None.

The recommendations were carried – 37 in favour, 12 against.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That it be noted that on 7 December 2020 the Council calculated the Council Tax Base for the year 2021/22:
  - (a) for the whole Council area as 71,538.70 [Item T in the formula in Section 31B(1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")]; and
  - (b) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates as in Appendix 3 of the report.
2. To calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2021/22 (excluding Parish Precepts) is £13,117,360.
3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2021/22 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) £140,444,412 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) £120,659,900 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
  - (c) £19,784,512 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) £276.56 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) £6,667,152 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per Appendix 4 of the report).
- (f) £183.36 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	230.97
BEAULIEU	198.95
BOLDRE	210.22
BRAMSHAW	206.86
BRANSGORE	241.72
BREAMORE	214.27
BROCKENHURST	225.85
BURLEY	200.34
COPYTHORNE	202.49
DAMERHAM	224.85
DENNY LODGE	218.05
EAST BOLDRE	225.11
ELLINGHAM HARBRIDGE & IBSLEY	214.30
EXBURY & LEPE	183.36
FAWLEY	320.74
FORDINGBRIDGE	294.65
GODSHILL	231.98
HALE	234.98
HORDLE	232.11
HYDE	206.38
HYPHE & DIBDEN	295.46
LYMINGTON & PENNINGTON	293.50
LYNDHURST	251.26
MARCHWOOD	302.40
MARTIN	221.51
MILFORD-ON-SEA	228.53
MINSTEAD	214.25
NETLEY MARSH	207.73
NEW MILTON	290.84
RINGWOOD	281.77
ROCKBOURNE	260.75
SANDLEHEATH	213.43
SOPLEY	265.18
SWAY	233.27
TOTTON & ELING	318.48
WHITSBURY	205.12
WOODGREEN	218.55



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 and page 8 of the report for the full amounts of Council Tax.

LOCAL COUNCIL AREA	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
ASHURST & COLBURY	153.99	179.64	205.31	230.97	282.30	333.62	384.96	461.94
BEAULIEU	132.64	154.73	176.85	198.95	243.17	287.37	331.59	397.90
BOLDRE	140.15	163.50	186.86	210.22	256.94	303.65	350.37	420.44
BRAMSHAW	137.91	160.89	183.88	206.86	252.83	298.80	344.77	413.72
BRANSGORE	161.15	188.00	214.86	241.72	295.44	349.15	402.87	483.44
BREAMORE	142.85	166.65	190.46	214.27	261.89	309.50	357.12	428.54
BROCKENHURST	150.57	175.66	200.76	225.85	276.04	326.23	376.42	451.70
BURLEY	133.57	155.81	178.08	200.34	244.87	289.38	333.91	400.68
COPYTHORNE	135.00	157.49	179.99	202.49	247.49	292.49	337.49	404.98
DAMERHAM	149.91	174.88	199.87	224.85	274.82	324.78	374.76	449.70
DENNY LODGE	145.37	169.59	193.82	218.05	266.51	314.96	363.42	436.10
EAST BOLDRE	150.08	175.08	200.10	225.11	275.14	325.16	375.19	450.22
ELLINGHAM HARBRIDGE & IBSLEY	142.87	166.67	190.49	214.30	261.93	309.55	357.17	428.60
EXBURY & LEPE	122.25	142.61	162.99	183.36	224.11	264.85	305.61	366.72
FAWLEY	213.83	249.46	285.10	320.74	392.02	463.29	534.57	641.48
FORDINGBRIDGE	196.44	229.17	261.91	294.65	360.13	425.61	491.09	589.30
GODSHILL	154.66	180.42	206.21	231.98	283.54	335.08	386.64	463.96
HALE	156.66	182.76	208.87	234.98	287.20	339.42	391.64	469.96
HORDLE	154.75	180.52	206.32	232.11	283.70	335.27	386.86	464.22
HYDE	137.59	160.51	183.45	206.38	252.25	298.11	343.97	412.76
HYPHE & DIBDEN	196.98	229.80	262.63	295.46	361.12	426.78	492.44	590.92
LYMINGTON & PENNINGTON	195.67	228.27	260.89	293.50	358.73	423.95	489.17	587.00
LYNDHURST	167.51	195.42	223.34	251.26	307.10	362.93	418.77	502.52
MARCHWOOD	201.61	235.19	268.80	302.40	369.61	436.80	504.01	604.80
MARTIN	147.68	172.28	196.90	221.51	270.74	319.96	369.19	443.02
MILFORD-ON-SEA	152.36	177.74	203.14	228.53	279.32	330.10	380.89	457.06
MINSTEAD	142.84	166.63	190.45	214.25	261.87	309.47	357.09	428.50
NETLEY MARSH	138.49	161.56	184.65	207.73	253.90	300.06	346.22	415.46
NEW MILTON	193.90	226.20	258.53	290.84	355.48	420.10	484.74	581.68
RINGWOOD	187.85	219.15	250.46	281.77	344.39	407.00	469.62	563.54
ROCKBOURNE	173.84	202.80	231.78	260.75	318.70	376.64	434.59	521.50
SANDLEHEATH	142.29	166.00	189.72	213.43	260.86	308.29	355.72	426.86
SOPLEY	176.79	206.25	235.72	265.18	324.11	383.04	441.97	530.36
SWAY	155.52	181.43	207.35	233.27	285.11	336.95	388.79	466.54
TOTTON & ELING	212.33	247.70	283.10	318.48	389.26	460.03	530.81	636.96
WHITSBURY	136.75	159.53	182.33	205.12	250.71	296.29	341.87	410.24
WOODGREEN	145.71	169.98	194.27	218.55	267.12	315.68	364.26	437.10

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 and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Authority have issued precepts for 2021/22 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	900.30	1,050.35	1,200.40	1,350.45	1,650.55	1,950.65	2,250.75	2,700.90
POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR HAMPSHIRE AUTHORITY	150.97	176.14	201.30	226.46	276.78	327.11	377.43	452.92
HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY	46.95	54.78	62.60	70.43	86.08	101.73	117.38	140.86
	1,098.22	1,281.27	1,464.30	1,647.34	2,013.41	2,379.49	2,745.56	3,294.68

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 County Council 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 2021/22 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings:-

LOCAL COUNCIL AREA	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
ASHURST & COLBURY	1,252.21	1,460.91	1,669.61	1,878.31	2,295.71	2,713.11	3,130.52	3,756.62
BEAULIEU	1,230.86	1,436.00	1,641.15	1,846.29	2,256.58	2,666.86	3,077.15	3,692.58
BOLDRE	1,238.37	1,444.77	1,651.16	1,857.56	2,270.35	2,683.14	3,095.93	3,715.12
BRAMSHAW	1,236.13	1,442.16	1,648.18	1,854.20	2,266.24	2,678.29	3,090.33	3,708.40
BRANSGORE	1,259.37	1,469.27	1,679.16	1,889.06	2,308.85	2,728.64	3,148.43	3,778.12
BREAMORE	1,241.07	1,447.92	1,654.76	1,861.61	2,275.30	2,688.99	3,102.68	3,723.22
BROCKENHURST	1,248.79	1,456.93	1,665.06	1,873.19	2,289.45	2,705.72	3,121.98	3,746.38
BURLEY	1,231.79	1,437.08	1,642.38	1,847.68	2,258.28	2,668.87	3,079.47	3,695.36
COPYTHORNE	1,233.22	1,438.76	1,644.29	1,849.83	2,260.90	2,671.98	3,083.05	3,699.66
DAMERHAM	1,248.13	1,456.15	1,664.17	1,872.19	2,288.23	2,704.27	3,120.32	3,744.38
DENNY LODGE	1,243.59	1,450.86	1,658.12	1,865.39	2,279.92	2,694.45	3,108.98	3,730.78
EAST BOLDRE	1,248.30	1,456.35	1,664.40	1,872.45	2,288.55	2,704.65	3,120.75	3,744.90
ELLINGHAM HARBRIDGE & IBSLEY	1,241.09	1,447.94	1,654.79	1,861.64	2,275.34	2,689.04	3,102.73	3,723.28
EXBURY & LEPE	1,220.47	1,423.88	1,627.29	1,830.70	2,237.52	2,644.34	3,051.17	3,661.40
FAWLEY	1,312.05	1,530.73	1,749.40	1,968.08	2,405.43	2,842.78	3,280.13	3,936.16
FORDINGBRIDGE	1,294.66	1,510.44	1,726.21	1,941.99	2,373.54	2,805.10	3,236.65	3,883.98
GODSHILL	1,252.88	1,461.69	1,670.51	1,879.32	2,296.95	2,714.57	3,132.20	3,758.64
HALE	1,254.88	1,464.03	1,673.17	1,882.32	2,300.61	2,718.91	3,137.20	3,764.64
HORDLE	1,252.97	1,461.79	1,670.62	1,879.45	2,297.11	2,714.76	3,132.42	3,758.90
HYDE	1,235.81	1,441.78	1,647.75	1,853.72	2,265.66	2,677.60	3,089.53	3,707.44
HYTHE & DIBDEN	1,295.20	1,511.07	1,726.93	1,942.80	2,374.53	2,806.27	3,238.00	3,885.60
LYMINGTON & PENNINGTON	1,293.89	1,509.54	1,725.19	1,940.84	2,372.14	2,803.44	3,234.73	3,881.68
LYNDHURST	1,265.73	1,476.69	1,687.64	1,898.60	2,320.51	2,742.42	3,164.33	3,797.20
MARCHWOOD	1,299.83	1,516.46	1,733.10	1,949.74	2,383.02	2,816.29	3,249.57	3,899.48
MARTIN	1,245.90	1,453.55	1,661.20	1,868.85	2,284.15	2,699.45	3,114.75	3,737.70
MILFORD-ON-SEA	1,250.58	1,459.01	1,667.44	1,875.87	2,292.73	2,709.59	3,126.45	3,751.74
MINSTEAD	1,241.06	1,447.90	1,654.75	1,861.59	2,275.28	2,688.96	3,102.65	3,723.18
NETLEY MARSH	1,236.71	1,442.83	1,648.95	1,855.07	2,267.31	2,679.55	3,091.78	3,710.14
NEW MILTON	1,292.12	1,507.47	1,722.83	1,938.18	2,368.89	2,799.59	3,230.30	3,876.36
RINGWOOD	1,286.07	1,500.42	1,714.76	1,929.11	2,357.80	2,786.49	3,215.18	3,858.22
ROCKBOURNE	1,272.06	1,484.07	1,696.08	1,908.09	2,332.11	2,756.13	3,180.15	3,816.18
SANDLEHEATH	1,240.51	1,447.27	1,654.02	1,860.77	2,274.27	2,687.78	3,101.28	3,721.54
SOPLEY	1,275.01	1,487.52	1,700.02	1,912.52	2,337.52	2,762.53	3,187.53	3,825.04
SWAY	1,253.74	1,462.70	1,671.65	1,880.61	2,298.52	2,716.44	3,134.35	3,761.22
TOTTON & ELING	1,310.55	1,528.97	1,747.40	1,965.82	2,402.67	2,839.52	3,276.37	3,931.64
WHITSBURY	1,234.97	1,440.80	1,646.63	1,852.46	2,264.12	2,675.78	3,087.43	3,704.92
WOODGREEN	1,243.93	1,451.25	1,658.57	1,865.89	2,280.53	2,695.17	3,109.82	3,731.78

**129 MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS**

There were no changes.

CHAIRMAN

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# Cllr Barry Rickman, Leader of the Council

Council Meeting 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Introduction to the 2021-2022 Council Budget and Council Tax  
21

Keep



New Forest

**SAFE**

*'A moment to reflect and a time to look forward  
with optimism for our future generations'*

# Responding to our community needs – Business as Usual



# Responding to our community needs – New Ways of Working



# Responding to our community needs – Keeping Everyone Safe

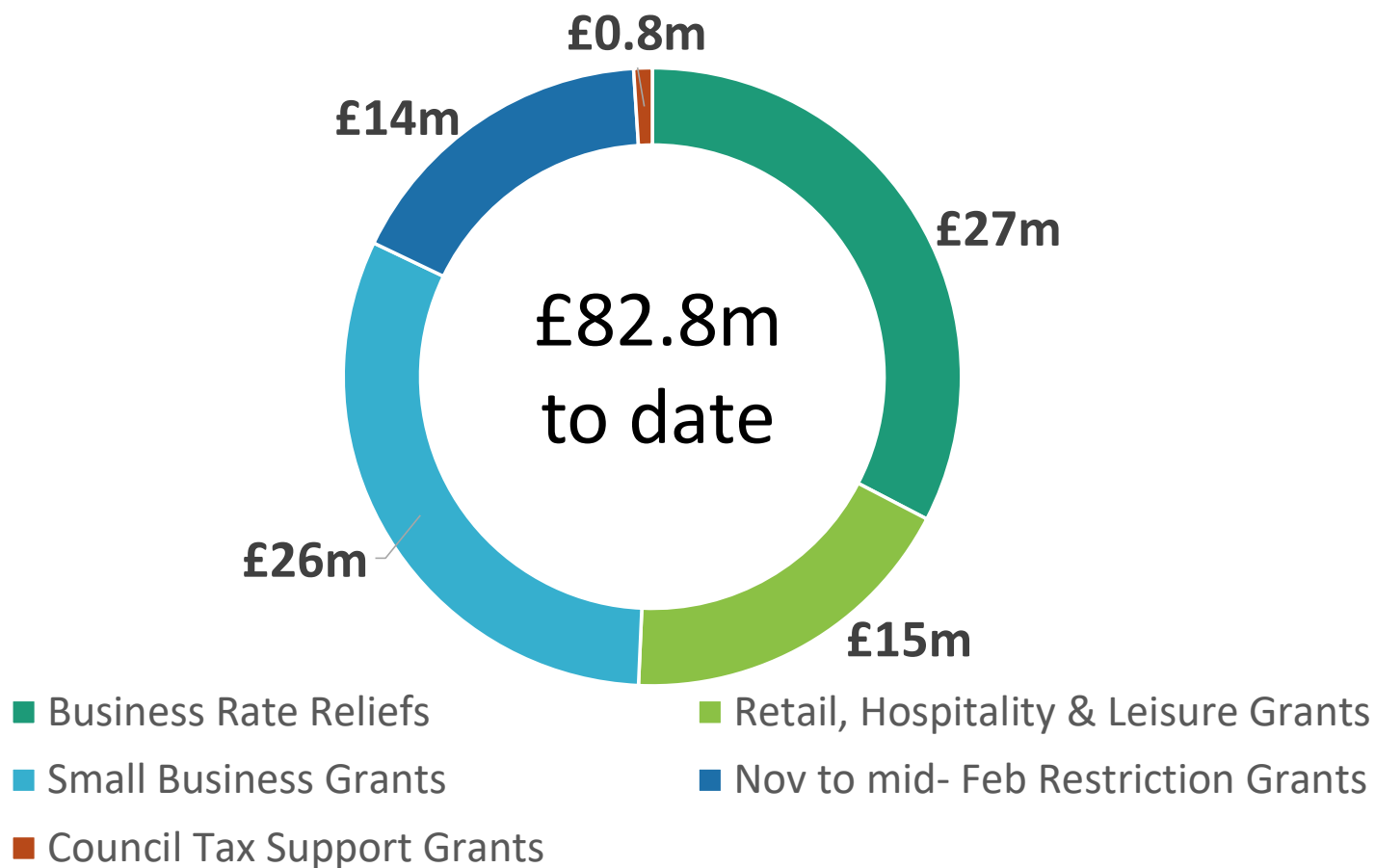
24



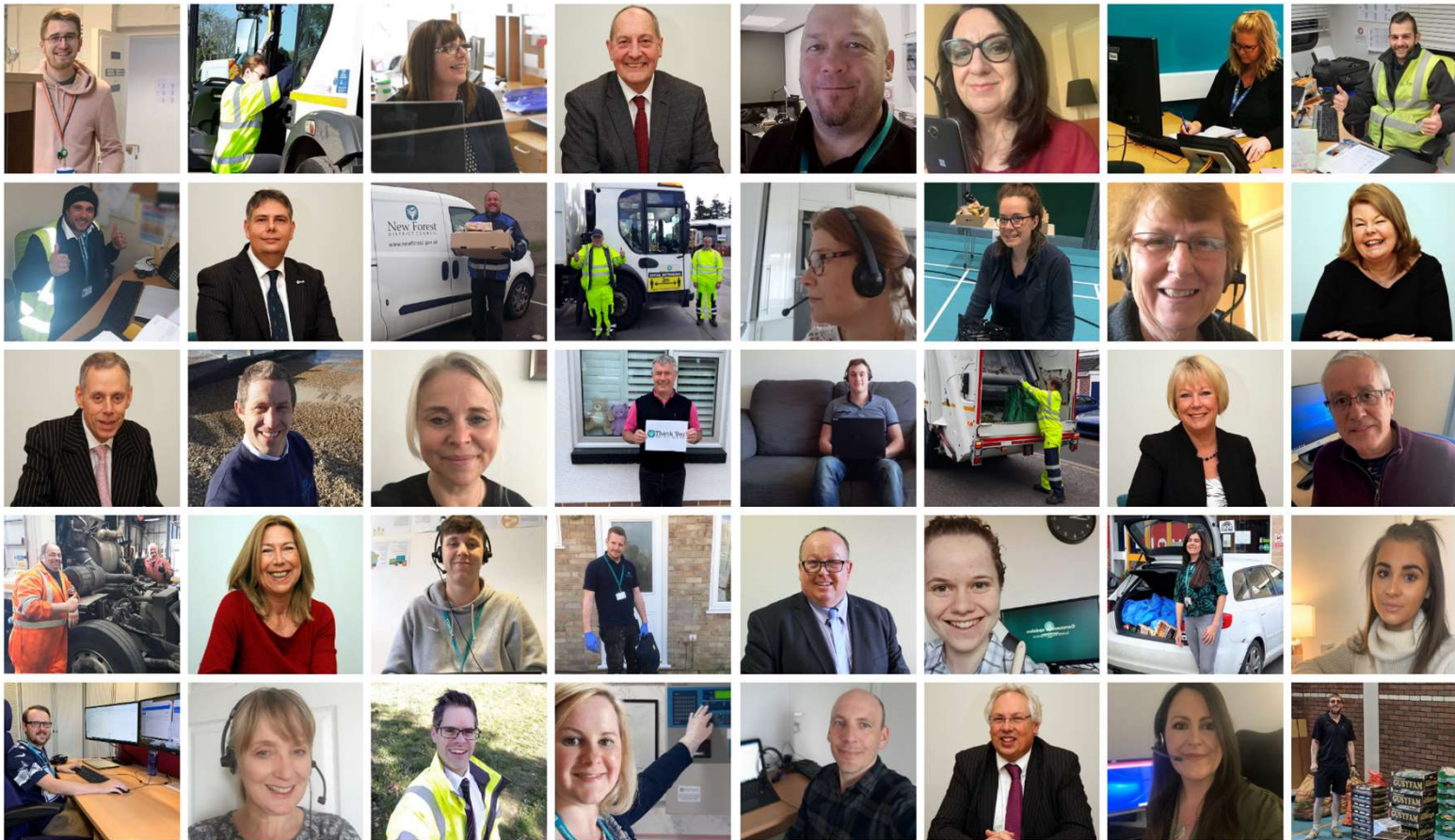


# Responding to our community needs – Supporting Business

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# The response from Portfolios and all our staff



# Housing Portfolio

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# Housing Portfolio

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# Housing Portfolio

29



# Housing Portfolio



# Housing Portfolio

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# Environment & Regulatory Services Portfolio





# Environment & Regulatory Services Portfolio



# Environment & Regulatory Services Portfolio

34



MY EYES ARE ON STALKS  
FOR A REASON: I'M WATCHING  
AND LITTERING MAKES ME  
#CRABBY!

# LOOK OUT, LITTERBUG!

GRAB A FREE BAG  
(BEFORE THEY RUN OUT!)  
AND TAKE YOUR  
LITTER HOME.

LOOK OUT  
FOR THE  
NEW FOREST

 **New Forest**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

**#CRABBY**  
TERMS & CONDITIONS AT NEWFOREST.DOV.UK/CF

LITTERING HARMS COASTAL CREATURES AND IS  
A CRIMINAL OFFENCE WITH A SUBSTANTIAL FINE.

The poster features a cartoon crab on the left with a speech bubble. To the right is a white plastic bag containing a can, a bottle, and other litter. The background is a blue sky with clouds. The bottom of the poster is white with logos and text.

# Environment & Regulatory Services Portfolio

35



# Environment & Regulatory Services Portfolio

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# Environment & Regulatory Services Portfolio



# Improvements to public facilities and a good investment!

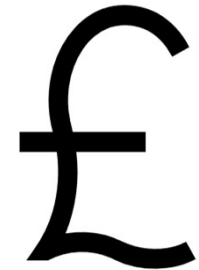


# Finance, Investment & Corporate Services Portfolio

## Our Strategy for maintaining Financial Resilience

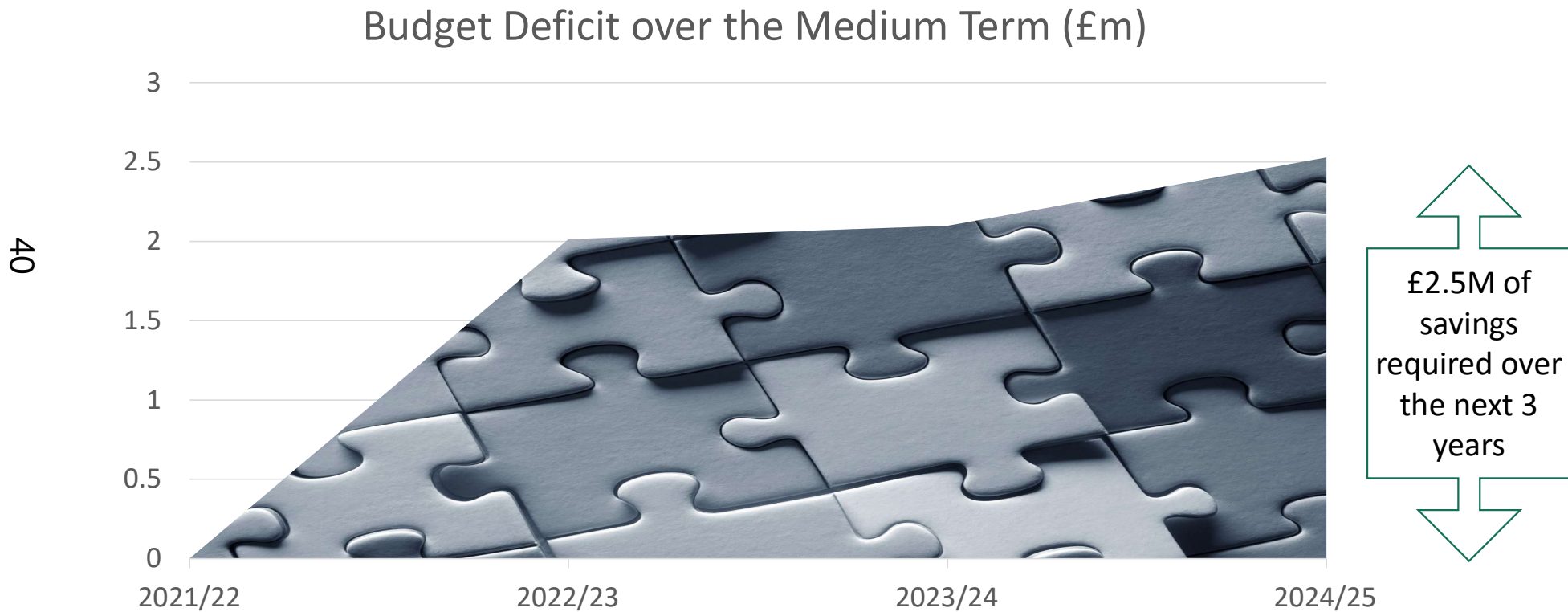
We will deliver financial resilience through a continued drive for efficiency. We will:

- **Review what we do** to safeguard “front line “ services - e.g. Health & Leisure Review
- **Invest in technology** to ensure our interaction with residents, customers and users is “smarter”
- **Improve & broaden** the services offered to residents, customers and taxpayers
- Ensure we embed a “**Green print**” in whatever we do



# Finance, Investment & Corporate Services Portfolio

## Why we need to change



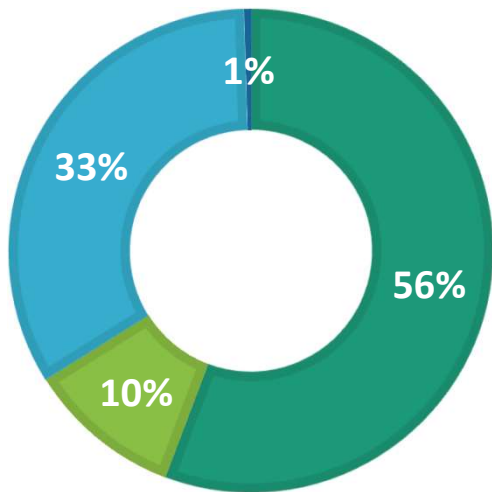


# Finance, Investment & Corporate Services Portfolio

## The changing shape of Council Finances

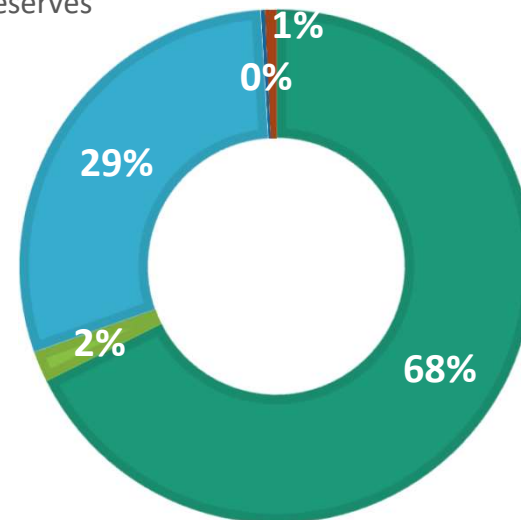
2011/12 GENERAL FUND

- C Tax Yield
- Business Rates
- Government Support Grant
- Coll. Fund



2021/22 GENERAL FUND

- C Tax Yield
- Business Rates
- Use of Reserves
- Government Support Grant
- Coll. Fund



# Planning & Infrastructure Portfolio

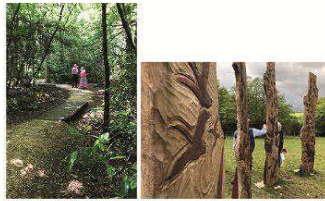


# Planning & Infrastructure Portfolio

43



Neighbourhood Green Infrastructure:  
Connectivity enhancements



Land Management Opportunities:  
To enhance the landscape, ecology and public enjoyment



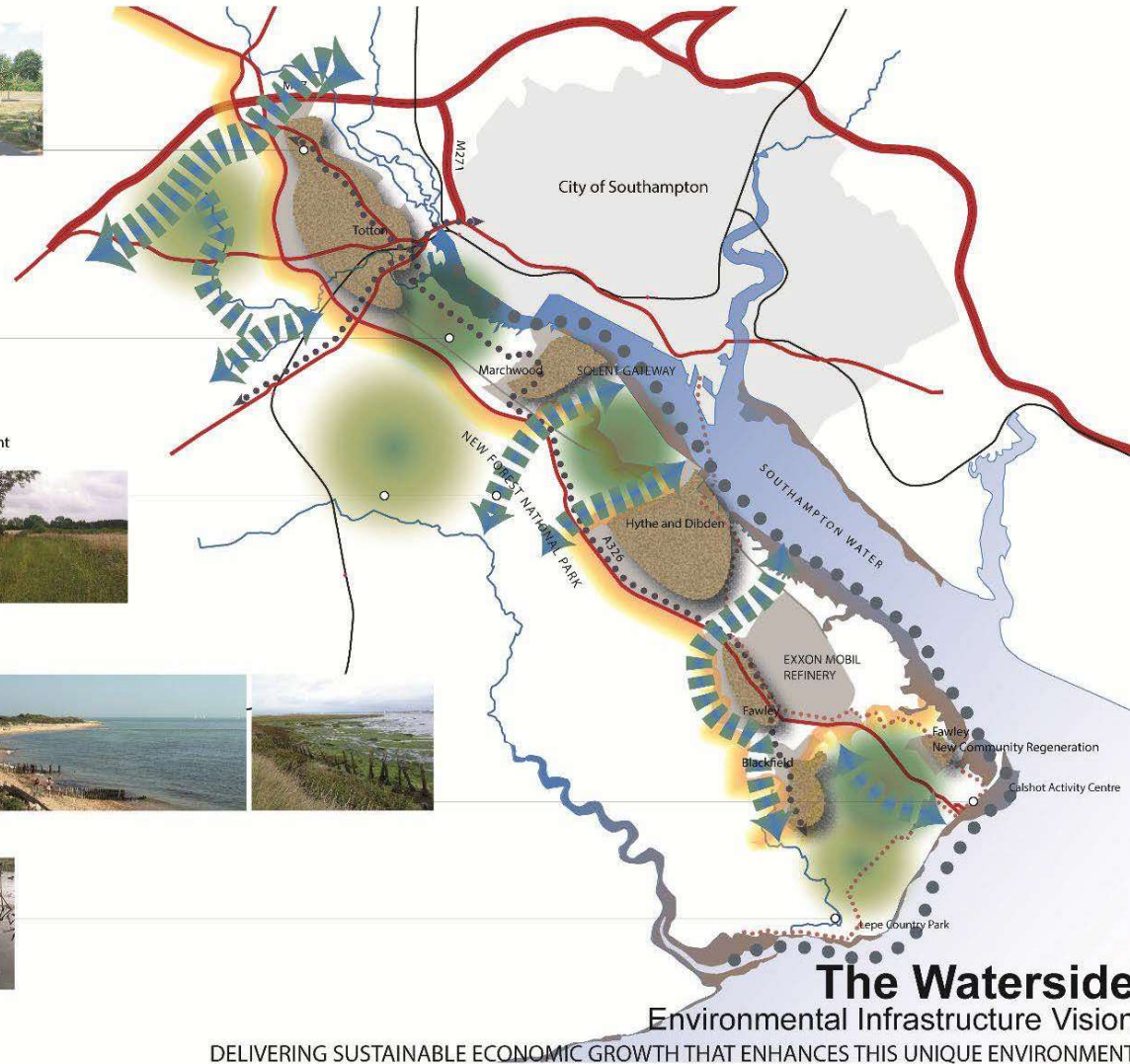
Land Management Opportunities:  
Ecological blue and green network enhancements



Coastal access opportunities



Land management Opportunities:  
Water management -  
Up stream catchment enhancements



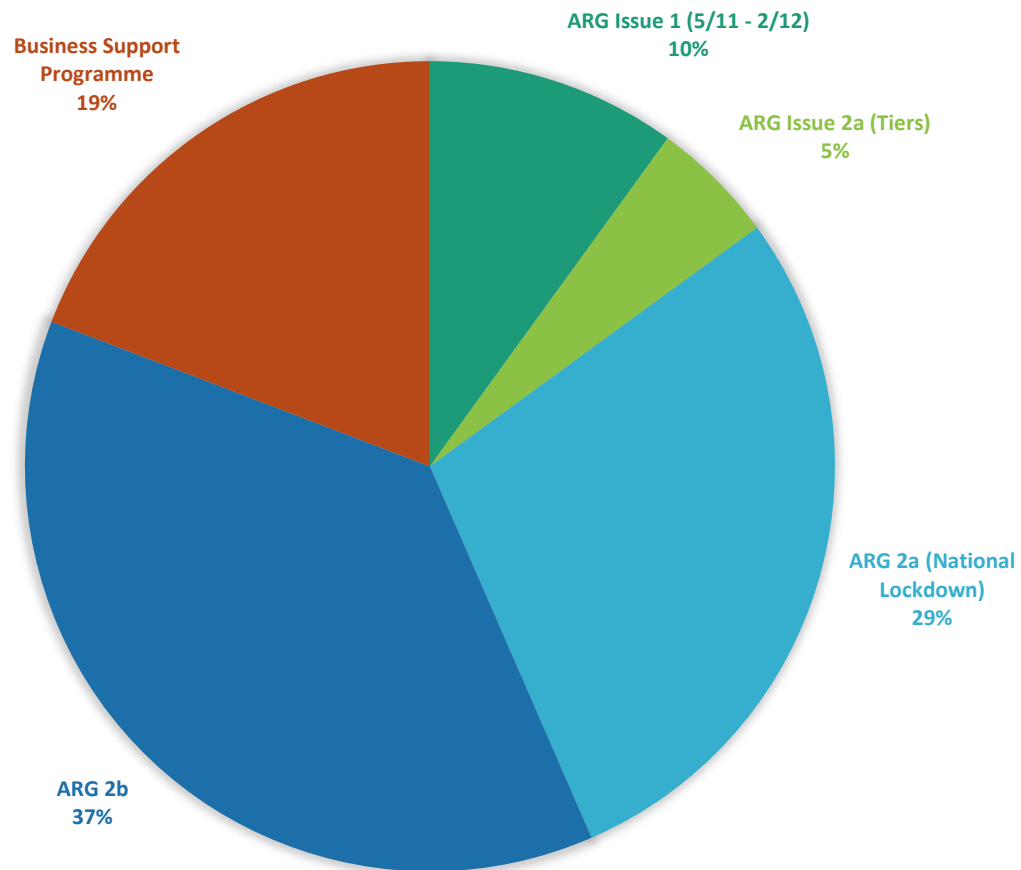
# Planning & Infrastructure Portfolio

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# Economic Development Portfolio

## ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS GRANT PROPOSED/FORECAST BUDGET



# Economic Development Portfolio

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# Community Affairs Portfolio

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How can we help you?



Council Tax



Housing



Planning



Jobs

Coronavirus information

How can we help you?



Council Tax



Housing



Planning



Jobs

Coronavirus information

Residents

[Recycling and rubbish](#)

[Parking](#)

[Benefits and support](#)

[Neighbourhood and community](#)

Business

[Clean streets](#)

[Open spaces](#)

[Planning](#)

[Leisure](#)

Council

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Keep informed

How can we help you?



Council Tax



Housing



Planning

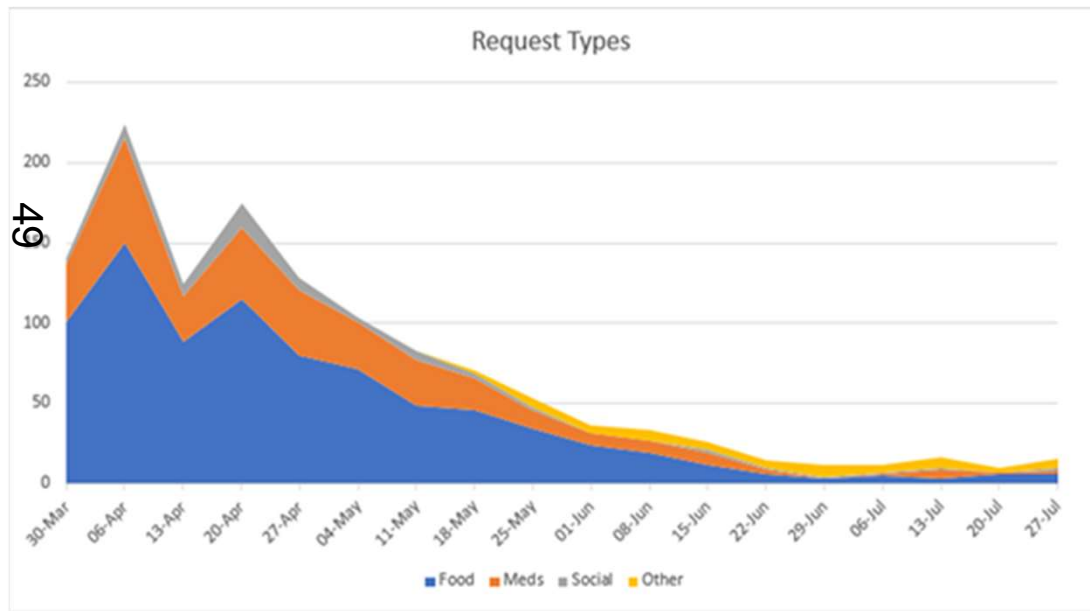


Jobs



# Community Affairs Portfolio

## Local Response Centre



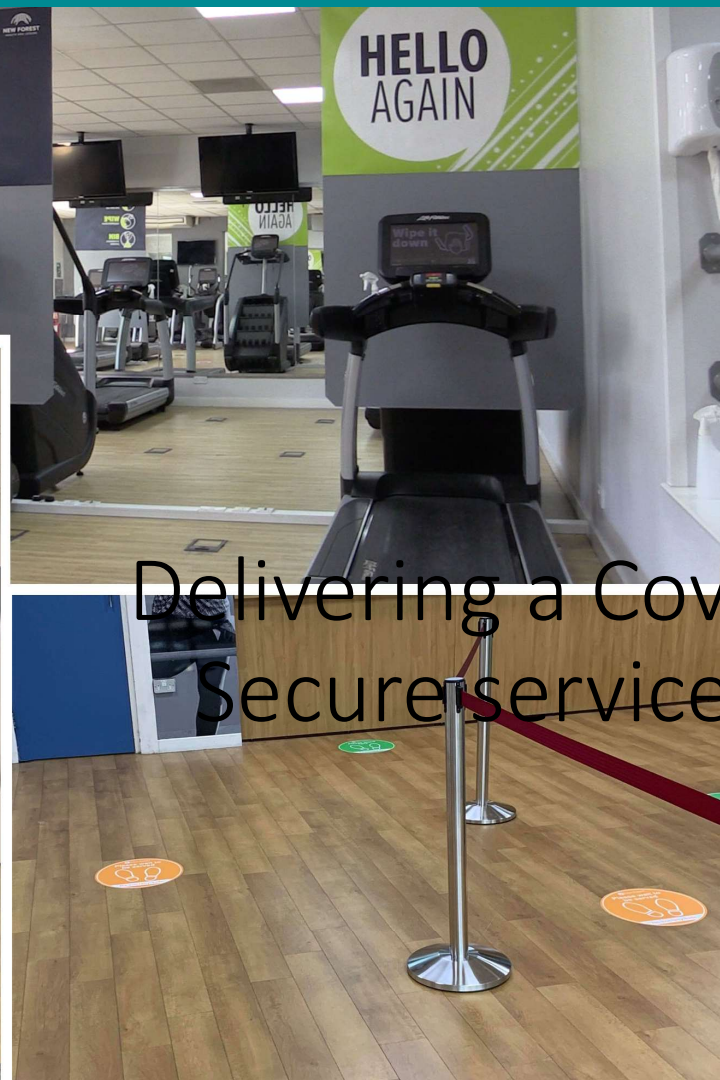
# Community Affairs Portfolio

## Supporting our Community

That the Community Grant awards, totalling £127,000 in revenue grants and £80,300 in capital grants, be approved for inclusion in the Medium-Term Financial Plan and proposed budget for 2021/22



# Leisure and Wellbeing Portfolio



# Leisure and Wellbeing Portfolio

52  
Sustaining our  
Health and  
Leisure service  
long term  
through  
partnering

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A Positive Outlook for  
the Future

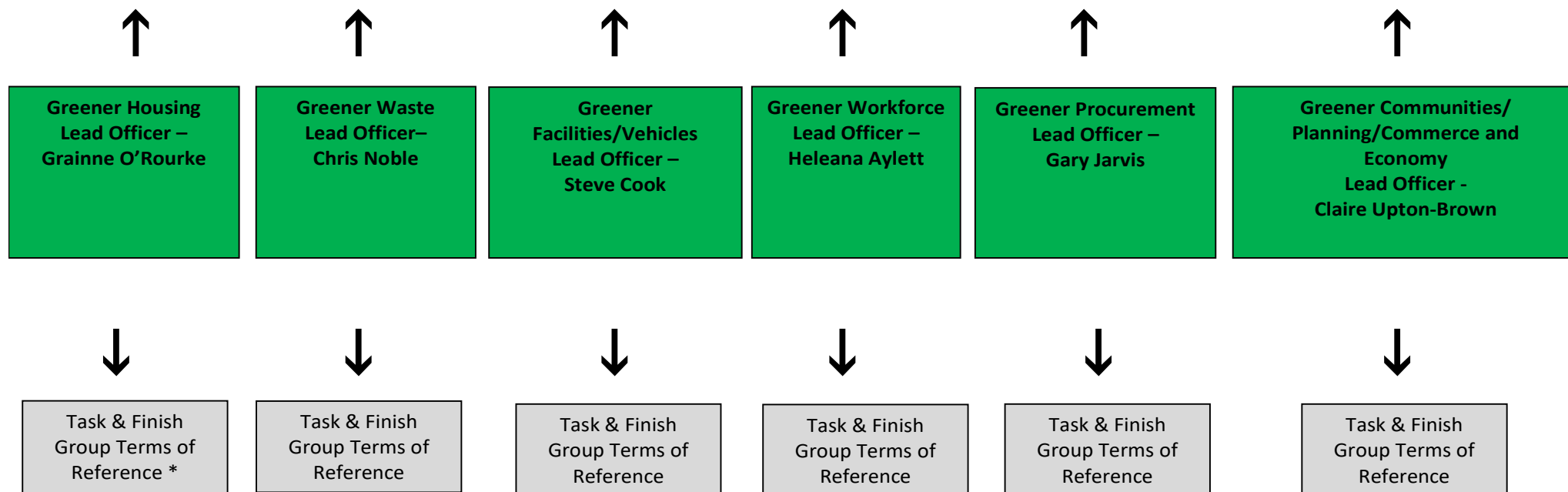
# Leader and Corporate Affairs Portfolio

## NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL'S GREEN AGENDA

*Doing what we can to reduce carbon emissions that cause climate change and to support environmental improvements within the District*

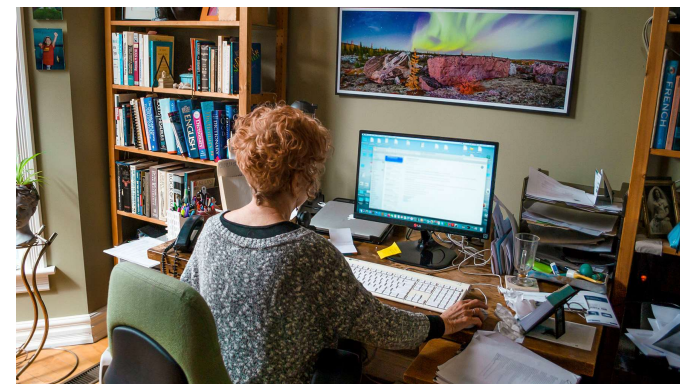
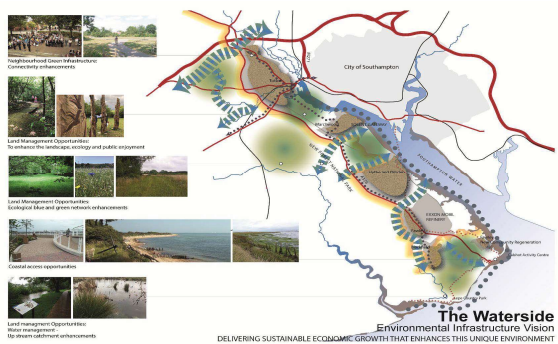
54

CABINET/EMT



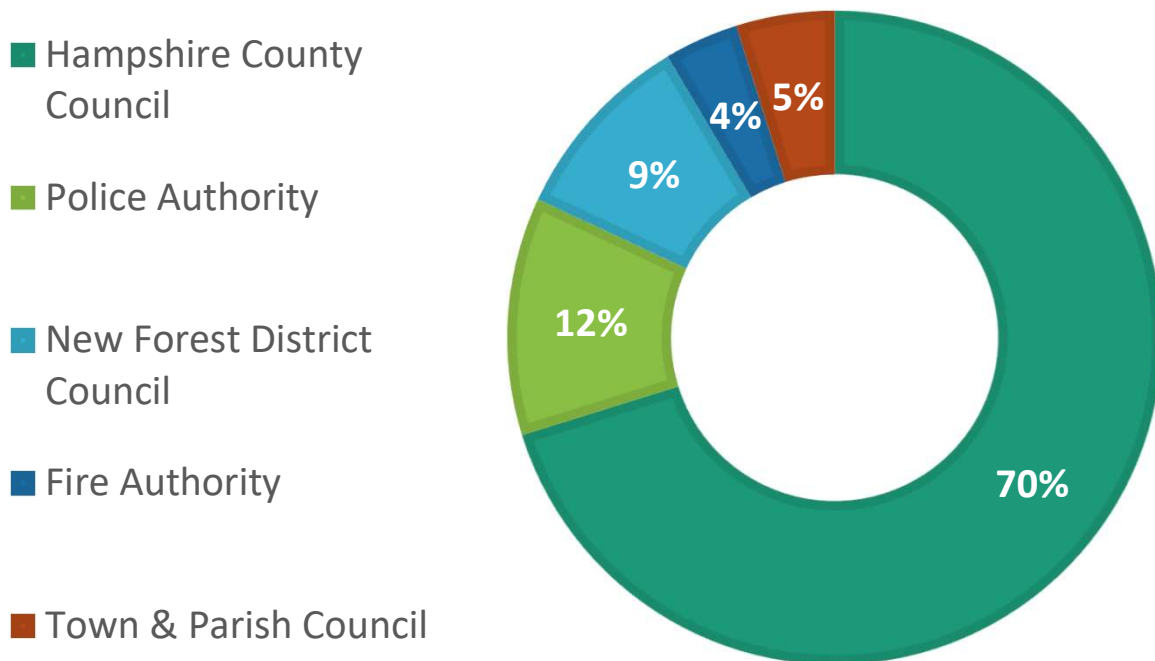
# The Opportunities Ahead

55



# 2021-2022 Council Budget and Council Tax

AVERAGE BAND D COUNCIL TAX PROPORTIONS 2021/22



General Fund Net Budget Requirement:  
£19.291m

General Fund Capital Programme Requirement:  
£15.947m

NFDC Council Tax Requirement per band D:  
£183.36



## **Budget Speech 2021.**

Good Evening,

I want to start by paying tribute to everyone who has helped in whatever way they have, responding to the pandemic. Officers and staff have been absolutely brilliant.

When I gave my last opposition budget speech, I really had no idea as to the deep and lasting impact the spread of the Corona virus would have. I could not have imagined the lives lost, the suffering that comes from Covid related symptoms, the impact on people's lives generally, and on businesses. Let's face it. It has been a hammer blow. It will take a long time to recover from.

For some of us, the help and sacrifice was limited to respecting the restrictions. For many, this included the pain of not seeing family members and cuddles with grand children.

Others have been able to do more. I have been deeply impressed by the way members of the community organised voluntary support, often without prompting from official sources – whether it was helping people who would otherwise be isolated, with food and medicines, helping in the food banks, at the vaccination centres, providing transport, litter picking and clearing footpaths. It has been truly awe inspiring.

From the outset, the Liberal Democrat opposition group offered to support and work with the administration when it came to the District Council's response to the pandemic. I am proud of my team for doing so. At times, it has simply been a question of stepping aside and letting things happen without involving the party politics. All Councillors, whether you are in the blue tribe or yellow tribe, recognise when it is right to partner up in the face of a National emergency.

I pay tribute to the District Council workforce. It really cannot have been easy being forced to rapidly adapt to new methods of working. I like to think that Councillors understood the scale of the challenge and were more understanding when the Council was at great strain with things like home working increasingly the “new normal” along with some staff even taking on new roles, such as the Health & Leisure Instructors helping with household waste collection.

In the context of partnership working, it is rather more difficult for an opposition group to operate normally. However, I felt that it was important that we did our job, which is on the one hand to take collective responsibility for what the Council does, but also to hold the administration to account and challenge those things where it is appropriate to do so.

Another important thing to remember and never forget is that although much attention has rightly been given to the pandemic crisis, there is another crisis which has equally damaging or even more serious consequences should we fail to take action. I refer, of course, to climate change. It is an emergency, even if the administration here declined to acknowledge this. We will support any actions which reduce carbon emissions, even if it means things like permanent virtual meetings.

As most of you should know, we do think that it is a mistake to pursue privatisation of the management of our Health & Leisure Centres, especially at this time. We participated fully in the task and finish groups and only withdrew when it became clear that our views about the disadvantages and lack of a public mandate to pursue the policy was not being listened to.

Similarly, my group has been consistently critical of the very poor recycling record of the District Council, to the point that the administration are now claiming that they are being more or less forced into adopting a new system, using wheelie bins. This is of course, a big about turn on the part

of the administration that always used to campaign in elections, accusing the Liberal Democrat opposition of wanting to impose wheelie bins.

Whether it is a blanket denial of what you are doing to the Health & Leisure Centres, a complete turn around on Wheelie bins, decisions to spend excessive amounts on Concrete beach huts or local government re-organisations.... there is a common theme. It is a refusal to understand the need for proper consultation, which isn't merely asking the right questions, but framing policy around what our residents actually want.

In two years', time we will be looking at District wide elections through a very different prism. A much-reduced Council size (a lib Dem initiative don't forget): very different ways of talking to the electorate, a reduction of our staff by 40% once the leisure centres have gone; the very real economic impact of Brexit and the costs of the mistakes made through the pandemic. It will be a very bumpy ride for the Conservatives.

A very important difference in the way we run the council would be in true partnership with the community we represent. I know Conservatives take the view that if they gain control of the council, they must direct everything using a very centralist Cabinet system of governance. They even think it is necessary and advantageous to have Conservatives in all the lead scrutiny positions because that way, there is little challenge or holding to account.

In China during the late Mao period it was known as the Gang of Four. Here we have the Gang of Eight running it all. That came to an abrupt end too.

Liberal Democrats believe that democracy works best and better decisions are made when you don't adopt the attitude that the Council policy is really what eight Cabinet members decide. We think also that much more could and should be done in engaging with the public, whether by use of social media or other means.

Liberal Democrats have been looking right across Europe at the way local authorities communicate with the public. We are way behind the curve and a much more active online, younger, electorate are beginning to find their voice and their vote.

We will carry on doing what we are doing – sometimes supporting, sometimes challenging, but always with the best interests of the community at heart.

We know that a wholesale opposition budget redraft that reflects our wishes would never be accepted, so we are not proposing one. Of course, it doesn't mean that we accept what you are doing in all areas, particular the closure of public toilets, the wasteful vanity projects and the privatisation of our much loved Health & Leisure Centres.

However, reflecting our support for local businesses, particularly the local retailers, we tried to make a stand for their benefit, by doing precisely what Conservative Councillors in Totton have asked for and indeed Conservative Councillors in opposition in Southampton are always asking for – a few months suspension of car parking charges, to attract shoppers and get them spending locally. Of course, it is what you do on the run up to Christmas. These are unusual times, real businesses are under the sort of extreme pressure that can only be helped if we share some of the pain and use reserves to stop them going bankrupt and then see the consequence of loss of business rates.

## FULL COUNCIL – 25 FEBRUARY 2021 – QUESTIONS TO PORTFOLIO HOLDERS UNDER STANDING ORDER 22A

### First Questions

#### Question 1

**From Cllr Ann Sevier to the Leader of the Council, Cllr Barry Rickman**

The Leader is undoubtedly aware of the tragic accidents on the B3078 Roger Penny in December of last year. In one incident three donkeys were killed, in another four ponies. Whilst these awful incidents have once again brought the lamentable death toll on this road back into the headlines, sadly rarely does a month go by that there isn't an animal killed on this road. I know, because as a practicing Commoner I have lost animals on this road myself. My question is, what can this Council do to try and reduce the animal deaths on this road and across the Forest?

Answer:

*As you are aware, I have been working for some years to try and reduce the number of animal casualties on New Forest roads and the B3078 in particular. Members might not be aware but the B3078 is one of two roads which between them see the vast majority of animal accidents. It is important to state that this Council does not have primary responsibility for highways, law enforcement or the management of the stock. But we have influence and we are representatives for our residents. Whilst not all casualties are speed related, I do not believe that it is a coincidence that this road, when monitoring shows that nearly half the vehicles travelling along it are exceeding the speed limit, is also one of the roads with the highest number of casualties.*

*Members may be aware that there is a petition before this Council at the moment, submitted by a resident who leads the New Forest Roads Awareness Campaign. It has just over 1,100 signatures at the moment. This calls for average speed cameras on the road which is something I have long supported. I hope that once this petition comes forward to be answered in the usual way in this Council, that this Council can join with me in supporting the initiative as a trial on this road where the vast majority of these casualties occur, including these two tragic incidents. And may I also add that there was another tragic incident which was a hit and run between those two, where three sheep were killed.*

*Notes – in response to a supplementary question regarding the use of average speed cameras, the Portfolio Holder applauded the work of the local police force and countryside watch team for all they had done to try and sort the issue. However, whilst 'in principle' support had been given to the initiative by a number of organisations, to date the Police had not done so. In considering the petition at the appropriate time, the Council could then choose to make representations to the Chief Constable and Police and Crime Commissioner in support of the initiative.*

*This question was answered by the Deputy Leader of the Council, Cllr Edward Heron.*

## Question 2

### **From Cllr Michael Thierry to the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, Cllr Michael Harris OBE**

A range of tradespeople well serves the New Forest, many working as sole or partnership businesses. Carpenters, gardeners, hairdressers, plumbers, electricians etc. Significant numbers, part of this important local workforce, were unable to receive government support in either the first or second 'lockdowns'. Their status as sole directors of a limited company excluded them from government assistance. There was no scheme for them. The Government addressed the issue in the January 2021 'lockdown'. Funds were available in a new arrangement. Will the Portfolio Holder confirm that this previously denied group is now receiving the full support of their entitlement, adding to the long list of businesses, of all complexion, who have received funding administered by New Forest District Council?

*Answer:*

*Through the initial Discretionary Grant Fund and subsequent Additional Restrictions (Discretionary) Grant, New Forest District Council has not excluded sole traders, Limited Companies or Trades people from applying to these schemes. These schemes have provided extensive financial support to businesses which have otherwise been excluded from Government schemes. Many of the mentioned Trades people, sole traders or Limited Companies do not have fixed premises costs and therefore could not access the Grants associated with a Premises Rateable Value. In recognising this we have made special provision for businesses which are registered at a domestic premise even though their business activity may be conducted in the local community.*

*The Additional Restrictions Grant launched in November last year introduced a specific home based business category. The creation of this home based tier coupled with the simple application process has enabled a high volume of applications from those previously excluded. To date over 60% of all applications received have come from this new funding tier. The total value of grants awarded to home based businesses is forecast to be well in excess of £1million by the time the scheme closes for applications at the end of February 2021.*

*I would add my thanks to everyone involved in this process at New Forest District Council. It has and continues to be a brilliant team effort.*

## Question 3

### **From Cllr Caroline Rackham to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Regulatory Services, Cllr Alison Hoare**

Following the interesting media posting placed by the Council's comms department on Friday 12th February, can the Portfolio Holder for the Environment please confirm how we compare to other councils in terms of our recycling record for cardboard and how it would be improved by latest measures to charge for cardboard packaging collection?

*Answer:*

*During the past year, mixed recycling tonnage collected at the kerbside within the NFDC have risen by 8% as a result of more waste being generated within homes by residents who are staying at home more as well as many more home deliveries. This is understandable and it is great for the environment that residents are separating their cans, tins, plastic*

bottles, paper, cardboard and aerosols so they can be recycled rather than being sent to for energy recovery.

Unfortunately, we are unable to accurately separate the recycling performance for cardboard as this is counted as dry mixed recyclables and is combined with cans, paper and plastics.

Currently on average we recycle 34%, Hampshire's average is 38%, the national average is 44% and the highest performer is 64%.

So, we all know the New Forest needs to have a much better, greener refuse and recycling service, which is why we have recently undertaken our future waste strategy consultation, we are also still working hard with the member's task and finish group to have a collection system that will improve our environmental performance on many fronts but must also take into account the unique nature of the forest.

I would like to confirm there are no proposals to charge for the collection of household cardboard from the kerbside. The recent message that went out on the 12th of February was in response to the significant quantities of exceptionally large cardboard boxes being put out for collection by businesses and trades men and this is clearly trade waste and therefore should be charged for.

I am sorry if this message caused some confusion, we did remove it within 3 hours once we realized that was the case. The post was aimed at protecting the council taxpayer from incurring the cost of disposing of trade waste through the household waste collection.

#### **Question 4**

##### **From Cllr Jack Davies to the Portfolio Holder for Housing Services, Cllr Jill Cleary**

How many homeless children remain in temporary accommodation during lockdown and does she have a breakdown for the length of time these children have been in temporary accommodation?

Answer:

Members, we have all seen the impact that Covid and subsequent lockdowns have had on our community and indeed, some of our homeless household have struggled hugely at this time. However, I am pleased that such households have had the unwavering support of the Council's Housing Teams who have helped them obtain the support and accommodation they need.

As of today, there are currently 8 families with a total of 12 children who are in temporary emergency accommodation, 3 of which are of young school age. Without the hard work and dedication of our homelessness officers and housing support teams, I know these figures would be much higher.

Of these 8 families, 2 entered emergency accommodation in the last week, with a further 2 in mid to late January, 1 on the last day of December, 1 in November and 1 in October. 1 further case has been with us a little while longer whilst the mother receives the necessary intensive support to ensure she is ready to sustain her next move.

Members, whilst we all appreciate that time spent in emergency accommodation should be time limited, it is important to bear in mind that to families fleeing domestic violence or losing their accommodation at short notice, it is a lifeline. Where possible, we ensure families have cooking and laundry facilities whilst our Homelessness team resolve a move to longer term accommodation.

*Members, I am pleased to inform you that 4 of these families have been nominated to our private sector lease family housing which will provide suitable self-contained accommodation within the next few weeks. Our Housing Maintenance teams are currently working their way around Covid restrictions to prioritise this much needed housing for them. A further family will enter our brand new Mother and Baby accommodation in New Milton very shortly, of which I am very proud. We are continuing to work hard to secure appropriate family accommodation for the remaining 3 families.*

*Members, you will all be familiar with our strategic aim to end the use of externally owned temporary accommodation and we are making great progress in this regard. I am delighted to announce that in the next 3 months we will be welcoming residents to our new Council owned facilities in Heather Road, Blackfield and Blease Court and Tourlands in Lymington. Recent additions to the temporary accommodation portfolio already includes Pentagon Court, Blackfield, Ocknell Grove, Hythe and Ashley Road in New Milton.*

*Members will know of the Council's unwavering commitment to homeless households. We will make sure that they have the necessary support and accommodation they deserve in order to improve their lives.*

#### **Question 5**

##### **From Cllr Hilary Brand to the Leader of the Council, Cllr Barry Rickman**

In light of the recent reports of animal deaths on Roger Penny Way, will he support the calls of local residents for an Average Speed Camera System along this route to protect animals from harm?

*Note – this question was dealt with at the same time as question 1. Please refer to question 1 for the response.*

#### **Question 6**

##### **From Cllr Alexander Brunsdon to the Portfolio holder for Planning and Infrastructure, Cllr Edward Heron**

What impact does the Portfolio Holder think the government's proposed planning reforms will have on the towns and parishes in the New Forest which are still going through the neighbourhood plan process?

*Answer:*

*The recent Government consultation "Planning for the Future" said "... we think Neighbourhood Plans should be retained in the reformed planning system, but we will want to consider whether their content should become more focused to reflect our proposals for Local Plans, as well as the opportunities which digital tools and data offer to support their development and improve accessibility for users. By making it easier to develop Neighbourhood Plans we wish to encourage their continued use and indeed to help spread their use further, particularly in towns and cities." Proposal 9 of the consultation stated "Neighbourhood Plans should be retained as an important means of community input, and we will support communities to make better use of digital tools".*

*The Council responded to the consultation agreeing the importance of Neighbourhood Plans but expressing concerns about their future role should the planning system, particularly in regards to design standards and place making, become overly prescriptive in a more centrally-controlled planning system.*

*I would urge any Town or Parish Council currently progressing a Neighbourhood Plan to continue to do so, this was a consultation and no relevant changes have yet been made to the legislative of policy framework for Neighbourhood Plans. This Council, through its close working relationship with Towns and Parishes progressing Neighbourhood Plans within its planning area, will ensure that any changes proposed by the Government following this consultation are communicated to them and advise on any impact these may have on their plans.*

#### **Question 7**

##### **From Cllr Malcolm Wade to the Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Wellbeing, Cllr Mark Steele**

What are the Portfolio Holder's plans for improving the mental and physical wellbeing of our residents, now that the health and leisure Centres will likely be managed by an external provider?

Answer:

*Improving the health and wellbeing of our community is best done working with partners, our partnership with the NHS is key to delivering for our community. I hope that as we approach the Autumn we are able to work with all our partners to finalise our Health and Wellbeing strategy and action plan.*

*I was so pleased to hear on Monday, that we can now plan to open our Health and Leisure centres from the 12th April, I can confirm that we will be ready to open all 5 centres as soon as government guidance allows.*

#### **Question 8**

##### **From Cllr Mark Clark to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Regulatory Services, Cllr Alison Hoare**

What are the next steps she will take to tackle coastal erosion across all our coastlines?

Answer:

*With regard to erosion across the district, we and our communities need to be aware that not everywhere can be protected from the effects of coastal erosion. The coastline is a dynamic environment that will continue to change, particularly through climate change and increased storms. But where we are able, we will work with other agencies and private landowners to do so. In recent months we have seen the work being carried out at Milford on Sea and I am incredibly pleased to report that the council has completed these urgent works enabling the protection of properties within the vicinity of the failed sea wall.*

*Where appropriate and where a project can be justified, technically, environmentally and financially we will continue to promote schemes. Crucially the delivery of these will depend on the receipt of grant aid funding and partnership funding.*

*Across the district there are several current projects that the council is engaged with to deliver schemes that will better protect our communities, businesses and environment. These include:-*

- *Hurst Spit to Lymington project*
- *Westover phase 2 scheme development and Milford frontage scheme assessment.*

- *Barton-on-Sea development of trials to manage ground water impacts on cliff stability.*
- *Coastal monitoring to inform of coastal change and data collection for future schemes.*

*We are working with BCP Council to deliver a strategy study for Christchurch Bay and we are continuing to deliver the council's maintenance programme for our coastline.*

*At the next Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel, I have asked for an officer from the Environment Agency to attend to explain to members the roles and responsibilities of the organisations dealing with coastal management.*

## **Question 9**

### **From Cllr Alex Wade to the Leader of the Council, Cllr Barry Rickman**

Following the very public video of a Parish Council meeting that showed Cllrs in a poor light, does he agree that NFDC must use this as an opportunity to promote this authority and local town and Parish councils, and encourage people of all ages and backgrounds to become engaged with local government? And will he agree to working with local schools to return the democracy days we have previously held?

*Answer:*

*The Government Regulations introduced in April 2020 that permitted local authorities to hold virtual meetings, presented Councils with an overnight shift to deliver decision making meetings in a new way. I am really proud of how all our members and officers have worked hard to adapt to the challenges this has presented. Reflecting on the recent Parish Council meeting press coverage you refer to, we all know how difficult these meetings can be, and it is worth reminding ourselves of some the principles this Council took forward back in 2020, starting with the Cabinet meeting on 6 May 2020.*

- *To be mindful of the individual participants' own circumstances at meetings;*
- *to be patient with one another; and*
- *to remember that this technology and way of working is still very new for many.*

*Maintaining our commitment to these principles only seeks to promote this authority as an example of good local democracy. Whilst virtual meetings have been challenging, a resulting benefit has been our ability to broadcast and reach more of our New Forest residents, either live, or at their convenience after a meeting, with over 7,300 views on our meetings since that first Cabinet meeting I mentioned last May. I would remind Members that it is also our duty as individual local councillors to engage with people of all ages and backgrounds to bridge that gap from "the Council" to the Community. Done successfully, this can promote and inspire new people into local democracy.*

*I would highlight to Members the "Make a Change – Become a Councillor" Campaign being run by the National Association of Local Councils. We have been promoting this on our social media channels and I would encourage our Town and Parish Councils to do the same. The campaign speaks to much of what Cllr Wade raises, encouraging people from all backgrounds and experiences who reflect their community to put themselves forward for election.*

*With regard to your specific question on engaging with local schools, I would be happy to consider how we might seek to engage the young people of the New Forest in the Local Democracy Week for 2021, which normally takes place in October.*



## Question 10

**From Cllr Mahmoud Kangarani to the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, Cllr Michael Harris OBE**

Can the Portfolio Holder report if he has made any progress in improving local broadband service by talking to New Forest providers? In the past, we have heard that this Council has been trying and lobbying, but he has not mentioned lately if there has been progress.

*Answer:*

*Broadband remains high on my agenda and as we have all experienced over the past year it plays a critical role in supporting communication, our communities and the economy of the local area. I am delighted that the Local Plan now has a policy requiring the provision of a High Speed fibre broadband connection and we have already granted permissions conditional on this provision. Currently significant progress is being made with a project to roll out 5G across the Waterside.*

*I am very shortly due to meet with the National Park and the Solent LEP to discuss how we can work with them to enable the installation of infrastructure to facilitate stronger coverage over the whole of the area. I am also aware of several community projects that have been successfully rolled out over the past few months. I have and will continue to lobby at the highest national level to improve broadband within the New Forest.*

## **Second Questions**

### Question 11

**From Cllr Alex Wade to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Infrastructure, Cllr Edward Heron**

Following an application in Hythe for six homes that was decided by officers, can the cabinet member review if these important proposals can go to committee and ensure any issues are debated, and therefore resident concerns acknowledged?

*Answer:*

*The exercise of the power to delegate planning functions is generally a matter for individual local planning authorities, having regard to practical considerations including the need for efficient decision-taking and local transparency. It is in the public interest for the local planning authority to have effective delegation arrangements in place to ensure that decisions on planning applications that raise no significant planning issues are made quickly and that resources are appropriately concentrated on the applications of greatest significance to the local area. The government has been clear that planning authorities should be determining majority of planning applications under delegated powers – with majority meaning 95% or more. I am aware that last year we determined 95% of decisions under delegated powers so I am comfortable that our scheme of delegation is proportionate.*

### Question 12

**From Cllr Mark Clark to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Infrastructure, Cllr Edward Heron**

Referring to the unoccupied VIVID housing development along the Fawley Road, Hythe, and the lack of published evidence that the reinstalled soakaways on this site are now at the correct depth.

This is despite being instructed by yourself and the Governance & Housing Executive Head to the Chief Planning Officer to do so. Why is this?

Further, why is there no published documentation regarding the ongoing proposals for the Public Open Space and the children's play area on this site? Surely any future occupiers of the properties will need to know what these proposals consist of and should be published?

*Answer:*

*I apologise that the site notes of the inspections that were carried out by planning and building control were not made public documents due to an internal error, these notes are now public documents. There are published documents showing some preliminary ideas for the public open space and children's play area but this is a matter that is still being agreed with the developer Vivid Homes. Vivid are communicating with their future tenants about the site and will be maintaining on going relationship with the future occupants as managers of properties and space.*

**REPORT OF HR COMMITTEE  
(Meeting held on 18 March 2021)**

**1. SENIOR PAY RESTRUCTURE (MINUTE NO 62)**

The Committee has considered and supports the proposed changes to the existing pay structure for senior managers, which will provide greater flexibility and utilise additional pay points.

The objective of the changes is to provide fit-for-purpose pay bands that will help the Council to recruit and retain senior managers.

The changes are also expected to help reduce the overall average pay of Senior Officers throughout the Council.

The Council currently has performance - based increments for Service Managers, and to ensure continued performance improvements and recognition of exceptional performance within the Council, it is proposed to introduce the changes set out in the report.

Other pay issues within the work programme will progressed in due course.

***RECOMMENDED:***

***That implementation of the proposed changes to the senior management pay structure, the lease car scheme, job evaluation and Market Supplements as set out in Report 7 of the HR Committee agenda of 18 March 2021, be approved.***

**COUNCILLOR B RICKMAN  
CHAIRMAN**

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**COUNCIL – 12 APRIL 2021**

## **EARLY RETIREMENT OF EXECUTIVE HEAD OF OPERATIONS (DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE)**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This report deals with a request from the Executive Head of Operations (Deputy Chief Executive) for early retirement of the grounds of efficiency.
- 1.2 The early retirement of Executive Directors needs to be approved by Members at full Council.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Executive Head of Operations (Deputy Chief Executive) has formally asked to be considered for early retirement for personal reasons and to support the efficiency of the Council.
- 2.2 Early retirement is loss of office before an employee's normal retirement age. Where the employee is a contributor to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) pension benefits including a lump sum and annual pension may be payable. An employee may request to volunteer for early retirement on the grounds of efficiency. However, the request must be supported by a financial business case to support it as the Council will be required to fund the pension "strain" of the employee leaving employment early. (The Pension "Strain" is the loss to the pension fund of pension contributions of both the employee and employer in the period of early retirement to normal retirement age, which is required to be paid to the Pension Fund by the Council.)
- 2.3 The Council is committed to the establishment of effective organisational structures that are flexible and responsive to changing needs. Early retirement is one way that changes to organisational structures can be achieved.
- 2.4 Following on from the decision of the Council to the Health and Leisure Review the Council is now in a position whereby it could operate with four instead of five Executive Heads. There would therefore be a saving of one Executive Head with the remaining responsibilities shared between four Executive Heads. It is not intended to identify a Deputy Chief Executive at this stage.
- 2.5 It is intended the Chief Financial Officer could take on responsibilities for ICT and HR, enabling the current Executive Director for Resources to oversee and review Operational Services pending a final decision on organisational arrangements.

### **3. FINANCIAL IMPACT**

- 3.1 Early retirement of the Executive Head of Operations (Deputy Chief Executive) will contribute a saving of £112,880 per annum and incur a one off cost of £99,004. This provides a business case payback of 0.88 years. This compares favourably with the business case target of 3 years.

#### **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 To agree to the request from the Executive Head of Operations (Deputy Chief Executive) for early retirement of the grounds of efficiency.

#### **Further Information:**

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