



New Forest
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council Meeting Agenda

27 February 2023



SUMMONS

To All Members of the Council

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the District Council to be held in the Council Chamber - Appletree Court, Beaulieu Road, Lyndhurst, SO43 7PA on Monday, 27 February 2023, at 6.30 pm



Kate Ryan
Chief Executive

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

This agenda can be viewed online (<https://democracy.newforest.gov.uk>).

It can also be made available on audio tape, in Braille and large print.

Members of the public may watch this meeting live on the [Council's website](#).

Enquiries to: Matt Wisdom
Email: democratic@nfdc.gov.uk
Tel: 023 8028 5072

AGENDA

Apologies

1. MINUTES (Pages 7 - 16)

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2022 as a correct record.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

To note any declarations of interests made by members in connection with an agenda item. The nature of the interests must also be specified.

Members are asked to discuss any possible interests with Democratic Services prior to the meeting.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

4. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

5. REPORT OF AUDIT COMMITTEE (Pages 17 - 18)

To consider the report of the Audit Committee dated 27 January 2023.

6. REPORT OF GENERAL PURPOSES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE (Pages 19 - 20)

To consider the report of the General Purposes and Licensing Committee dated 10 February 2023.

7. REPORT OF HR COMMITTEE (Pages 21 - 22)

To consider the report of the HR Committee dated 12 January 2023.

8. REPORT OF COMMUNITY, PARTNERSHIPS AND WELLBEING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (Pages 23 - 24)

To consider the report of the Community, Partnerships and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Panel dated 17 January 2023.

9. REPORT OF ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (Pages 25 - 26)

To consider the report of the Environment and Sustainability Overview and Scrutiny Panel dated 12 January 2023.

10. REPORTS OF THE CABINET (Pages 27 - 38)

To consider the reports of the Cabinet dated:-

- 1 February 2023; and
- 15 February 2023.

11. THE 2023/24 COUNCIL TAX (Pages 39 - 50)

12. QUESTIONS

Under Standing Order 22.

13. 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 Strategic Director – Housing, Communities and Governance by not later than 12.00 noon, Friday 24 February 2023).

14. INDEPENDENT PERSONS

The terms of office of the Independent Persons, appointed for the purpose of the Localism Act 2011 to give views on the allegations that District or Parish/Town councillors have failed to comply with their authority's code of conduct, will expire in May 2023.

It is recommended that the Council consider the appointment of new Independent Members at the Annual Meeting in May 2023, following the quadrennial District elections.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Monitoring Officer be delegated authority to commence a recruitment process for two new Independent Persons, with recommendations to be made to the Council by a Panel comprising the Chief Executive, Monitoring Officer and Service Manager for Democratic and Support Services.

15. DELEGATION OF POWERS TO OFFICERS

There are changes required to the Council's Scheme of Delegation of Powers to Officers, following recent changes to the Council's staffing structures.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Council's Scheme of Delegation of Powers to Officers that are the responsibility of the Council, be updated to:-

- (a) replace all references to "Executive Head" with "Strategic Director"; and
- (b) include a new delegation to "Assistant Director", in respect of all powers currently delegated to Strategic Directors, Service Managers and all other Council officers.

16. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS

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

17. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

18. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

The background report (Appendix 1) in relation to Freedom Leisure, which contains recommendations to the Council at item 10 of this agenda – Report of the Cabinet dated 15 February 2023, contains exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 5 in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

If required, the Chairman will move the following resolution:-

"That, under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and the press be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 5 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information."

Description of exempt information – Paragraph 5 – Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.

Part II - Private Session

Members are reminded that reports and information relating to this session are not for publication and should be treated as **strictly confidential**.