



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
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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**.

Agenda Item 1

12 DECEMBER 2022

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the New Forest District Council held on Monday, 12 December 2022.

- * Cllr Alan O'Sullivan (Chairman)
- * Cllr Neville Penman (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors:

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

Councillors:

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

*Present

Officers Attending:

Kate Ryan, Alan Bethune, Grainne O'Rourke and Matt Wisdom.

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Alvey, Craze, Crisell, Duke, England, Glass, Lane, Reilly, Rippon-Swaine, Thorne, Tungate and J Ward.

46 MINUTES**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2022, be confirmed.

47 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

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

Cllr E Heron, for transparency purposes, declared his membership of the Solent Freeport Consortium Ltd. He confirmed that he would abstain from voting on this part of the Cabinet report, considered at minute 50 below.

48 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**Engagements**

The Chairman informed Members of recent engagements attended, including:-

15 November

The Chairman was invited to the 60th Anniversary and AGM of Solent Mind at St Mary's Stadium in Southampton. This AGM gave the opportunity to chat with partners, funders and friends and explore how they would work together to better support people with mental health conditions.

Maggie MacIlsac, CEO of Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care Board spoke about the challenges faced today and John Wilderspin, Chair of the Board spoke about changes since Solent Mind was founded 60 years ago.

16 November

The Chairman accompanied the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire, Nigel Atkinson Esq, as they unveiled a mural in New Milton, created by Members of MENCAP.

1 December

The Chairman attended the New Forest Brilliance in Business Awards at Brockenhurst College on 1 December, attended by 230 businesses. The event showcased all of the 9000 businesses within the New Forest area, demonstrating the value to the public and private sector of thriving business.

Christmas Carols

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman attended carol services in New Milton and Basingstoke on 3 and 10 December respectively.

War Memorial Hospital – Hythe

The Chairman referred to his planned attendance at the opening ceremony of a new hospital building, together with a tour of the new facilities of the War Memorial Hospital in Hythe. Unfortunately this engagement was cancelled but would be

rearranged. The Chairman looked forward to viewing these facilities in the New Year.

49 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Solent Freeport

The Leader referred to a key event she attended marking the Government's approval of the Solent Freeport. The event started in Southampton and came across the water to the Solent Gateway site at Marchwood. A copy of the letter from the Minister for Levelling Up confirming the approval is attached to these minutes.

The Leader welcomed the opportunity to hear first hand the Government's commitment to backing Freeports as a key part of its economic strategy. She referred to the significant work with partners across the private and public sector to achieve this important step and that the Council would continue its efforts to see the potential benefits delivered into real opportunities for New Forest residents.

50 REPORT OF THE CABINET

The Leader of the Council presented the report of the Cabinet meeting held on 7 December 2022 and moved the adoption of the recommendations. Cllr Andrews seconded the motion.

Paragraph 4 – Medium Term Financial Plan 2022 Onwards

One Member questioned, having adopted the Asset Investment Strategy, how the Council would use the revenue from assets achieved through the strategy. The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Investment and Corporate Services highlighted that the revenue would enter the Council's general fund, and the general fund priorities were outlined in the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP), demonstrating the use of this additional income. The Council awaited the provisional local government finance settlement to understand further impact to the MTFP.

Paragraph 7 – Solent Freeport HM Government Memorandum of Understanding

Note – Cllr E Heron requested that his abstention from the above, be recorded.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and the recommendations be adopted.

51 QUESTIONS

There were none.

52 QUESTIONS TO PORTFOLIO HOLDERS UNDER STANDING ORDER 22A

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

- Cllr Thierry to the Portfolio Holder for Business, Tourism and High Streets, Cllr Michael Harris OBE on initiatives to support local high streets.

- Cllr Kangarani to the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Regeneration and Infrastructure, Cllr Andrews on housing targets in the New Forest.
- Cllr Harrison to the Leader of the Council, Cllr Cleary on the impact of the Freeport on Dibden Bay.
- Cllr J Davies to the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Investment and Corporate Services, Cllr J Heron on grant funding for warm banks.
- Cllr Osborne to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Coastal Services, Cllr S Davies on reducing the District's carbon footprint.
- Cllr A Wade to the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Homelessness Services, Cllr E Heron on current housing waiting lists and temporary accommodation.

Note:-

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

53 APPOINTMENT OF STRATEGIC DIRECTOR - PLACE, OPERATIONS AND SUSTAINABILITY

The Leader of the Council moved the recommendations as set out in the report. Cllr Andrews seconded the motion.

A number of Members spoke in support of the appointment. It was considered that an excellent candidate had been found who would add great value to the District Council. In doing so, Members recorded thanks to the Council officers who held the positions in the report that would be made redundant, for all their hard work in serving the residents of the New Forest. It should be noted that the Council would be working closely with both individuals to ensure that HR procedures, including if appropriate redeployment, were followed.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Council approves the appointment of James Carpenter as Strategic Director – Place, Operations and Sustainability of New Forest District Council.
2. That the Council approves the dismissal on grounds of redundancy of the postholders: Executive Head – Partnerships and Operations, and Executive Head – Planning Regeneration and Economy.

54 MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS

There were no changes.

CHAIRMAN



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

Dehenna Davison MP
Minister for Levelling Up
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Brian Johnson
Chair, Solent Freeport
Solent LEP
C/O Paris Smith
1 London Road
Southampton
SO15 2AE

7th December 2022

Dear Brian,

Freeports: Solent receives final government approval

I am delighted to inform you that Solent is one of the first UK Freeports to get fully up-and-running after receiving final government approval. It is a testament to the strong local partnerships and determined collaboration across the private and public sectors in Solent that they have reached this incredible milestone.

As you know, Freeports are a cornerstone of the government's plan to Level Up the country. This significant landmark is an important step on the Freeports journey and sends a clear message: the UK Government is backing these places as a key part of its economic strategy. Solent Freeport will now receive £25 million of seed funding and potentially hundreds of millions in locally retained business rates to upgrade local infrastructure and stimulate regeneration. This is alongside a generous package of trade and innovation support for businesses locating there.

This will allow Solent to grow its vast maritime economy, making the Solent a thriving hub for the world's marine and maritime sector. This will enable a package of investments at the Port of Southampton to enhance operational efficiency and capacity and a new 500,000 sq. ft of business space at Navigator Quarter, which will benefit from excellent air, road, sea and rail connectivity.

And this is only the beginning of the journey – we will now work closely your Freeport to ensure it has the support it needs from Government to deliver transformational benefits for the local area. We continue to deliver the wider programme at pace, and we expect to announce that the remaining English Freeports have received final approvals in the coming months. We will also shortly be announcing the locations of two Green Freeports in Scotland, as well as at least one Freeport in Wales. Finally, we continue to hold discussions with stakeholders in Northern Ireland about how we can extend the benefits associated with the Freeport programme there.

Freeports will bring opportunity and prosperity to the communities that need it most. We want to raise awareness of these benefits, at home and globally, and challenge some common

misperceptions about Freeports. If you would like to be involved and support your Freeport and the wider Freeport programme, please get in touch with my office.

With every good wish,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dehenna". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

DEHENNA DAVISON MP

FULL COUNCIL – 12 DECEMBER 2022 – QUESTIONS TO PORTFOLIO HOLDERS UNDER STANDING ORDER 22A

First Questions

Question 1

From Cllr Michael Thierry to the Portfolio Holder for Business, Tourism and High Streets, Cllr Michael Harris OBE

Will Councillor Michael Harris OBE, New Forest District Council Portfolio Holder for Business, Tourism and High Streets update the Council on the success of the recent initiatives to encourage greater spending in local high streets?

Can he outline, going forward, what will be the programme to encourage continued local shop support in the coming months?

Answer:

There have been a series of recent initiatives designed to encourage greater spend in the local high streets, which include the following:-

A joint marketing campaign run throughout 2022 via Go New Forest website promoting local high street shopping. This will be repeated in 2023.

The Council ran the successful 2022 Shop Doctor programme which supported 82 high street businesses, providing participating businesses with impartial feedback. This helped to raise standards and improve the customer experience, increase foot-fall and the spend in town and village centres.

For the first time this year we ran a campaign throughout November to promote shopping in local high streets in support of the national campaign called Small Business Saturday, held on the 3rd December. This was supported with free parking in all NFDC high street car parks. There was extensive promotion across all Council channels to raise awareness of the importance of supporting local high streets. This included pictures of myself and the Chairman supporting local businesses. I was also interviewed by BBC Radio Solent on the importance of our high streets.

Given the success of the Shop Doctor Programme, this initiative will be run again in 2023. 80 high street businesses across 5 New Forest towns and villages will be able to benefit from this.

To better understand how we can support our high streets going forward we have commissioned a retail consultant to undertake visitor experience surveys of the high streets in Totton and Fordingbridge. This will provide valuable information to inform future initiatives.

It is also important to note that the different teams throughout the Council support our local high streets, by keeping them clean and well maintained and ensure that businesses meet relevant safety standards, this all helps to encourage residents and visitors to shop locally.

Note – in response to a supplementary question on visiting Ringwood to meet with local councillors to discuss these initiatives, the Portfolio Holder was pleased to accept the invitation.

Question 2

From Cllr Mahmoud Kangarani to the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Regeneration and Infrastructure, Cllr Diane Andrews

Now that the government have been forced to climb down from imposing compulsory housing targets on local authorities, what difference will it make here in the New Forest?

Answer:

The Government has indicated that it will consult on proposed changes to the methodology for calculating housing need over the next few weeks, it is suggested that the consultation will be published before Christmas. The consultation will be in the form of revised wording to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), the Council will consider the consultation once published and respond accordingly. At this stage there is very little else I can say.

Note – in response to a supplementary question on the possible relaxation of meeting planning targets as part of the Planning Committee process, the Portfolio Holder reiterated that there was very little else to say until the details of the consultation were made available.

Question 3

From Cllr David Harrison to the Leader of the Council, Cllr Jill Cleary

Britain is one of the most depleted nature countries in the world. What are the Conservatives up to, designating Dibden Bay as a Freeport?

Answer:

The designation of the land at Dibden Bay as a tax site within the Solent Freeport does not change or impact on the environmental designation of this land. The tax incentives through Freeport designation can only be realised if there is something there. As has been discussed a number of times, any development on this site will need planning permission either from the District Council or the Secretary of State depending on the scale of the development. As and when there is a proposal, the impact of the development on the environment will be fully assessed. Designation as a tax site within the Freeport in no way changes or impacts on this process.

Note – in response to a supplementary question on Freeport status being an enabling measure for development, the Leader reiterated that as and when there was a proposal, the impact of the development on the environment would be fully assessed.

Question 4

From Cllr Jack Davies to the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Investment and Corporate Services, Cllr Jeremy Heron

Many people across our district are struggling with the increased cost of living, especially high energy bills. Can the portfolio holder tell me how much of the grant funding for warm banks has been allocated so far and which areas have received that money?

Answer:

Before answering, the Portfolio Holder reminded all councillors and residents of the information available on the Council's website regarding cost of living – at <https://www.newforest.gov.uk/costofliving>

So far, we have awarded 16 grant payments, totalling £13,220, to a range of organisations who have opened up a warm space, covering the whole district, including:-

- Totton Spiritualist Church – Totton
- Lyndhurst Community Association – Lyndhurst
- Our Lady of Sorrows – Fordingbridge
- Fawley Parish Council – Fawley
- Hordle Community Association – Hordle
- Sway – Sway
- Avonway Community Centre – Fordingbridge
- Blackfield Baptist Church – Blackfield
- Whitsbury Village Hall – Whitsbury
- St Winfrids Church – Testwood
- St Andrews Church – Hythe and Dibden
- Milford On Sea Community Centre – Milford On Sea
- Burley Parish Council – Burley
- Martin Club – Martin
- Youth and Families Matter – Totton
- Copythorne Parish Hall – Copythorne

These however provide more opportunities than just a warm space, bringing communities together. I would encourage all Members to signpost residents to these facilities where necessary.

In addition, there are more than those listed with funding from the District Council active across the area.

Note – in response to a supplementary question on the outstanding funds being allocated to developing a Deprivation Strategy, the Portfolio Holder highlighted the need to be able to adapt and react to changing circumstances in committing finances, as has been required over the last few years.

Question 5

From Cllr Stephanie Osborne to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Coastal Services, Cllr Steve Davies

What has the District Council done, or will be doing, to encourage and facilitate residents to reduce their carbon footprint?

Answer:

The Council is doing positive work across various services to ensure that residents in the District can access information and advice about ways of making their properties more energy efficient reducing carbon footprint. The Council's housing department has also run a cost of living campaign on how to save energy and the planning department offers advice across social media on EV Solar Panels. Through our place shaping role the Council has, and will continue to ensure that we shape our communities in a way that reduces residents' carbon footprint, building homes and employment within existing settlements with easy access to facilities supported by good walking and cycling routes.

The current Climate and Nature Recovery Action Plan is being updated and I am looking forward to sharing with you a number of exciting initiatives when we report to Cabinet in February with the annual review.

Note – in response to a supplementary question on the collective effort needed to reduce carbon footprint, the Portfolio Holder agreed that residents, businesses and the Council would need to work together on these initiatives.

Question 6

From Cllr Alex Wade to the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Homelessness Services, Cllr Edward Heron

Can the Portfolio Holder confirm how many residents and families we have registered as Homeless, on the Housing waiting list and in temporary accommodation? Also, can the Portfolio Holder advise on how many of these families in temporary accommodation have raised concerns about the lack of suitability to their needs?

Answer:

Referring to the November Cabinet report on Homelessness, Members will be aware of the current demands for social housing and homelessness services in the district has been considerable. There are currently 1,566 applicant households on the Housing Register. 576 of these applicants are single people. In more recent times there are, on average, approximately 400 houses made available in the Council area each year, as a mixture of Council and registered provider housing.

There are 397 households whom the Council owes a duty of care to secure accommodation. These households will largely live in one of our stock of Private Sector Lease (PSL) properties or the Council's own stock of properties used for temporary accommodation, until such time as they secure permanent accommodation. Half of these duties have been awarded in the last 18 months.

There are 38 households in emergency accommodation not owned by the Council, which is largely a mix of HMO or flat accommodation, with a further 7 families and 23 single people in hotel accommodation. 25 of these households have a firm offer of accommodation, either through the housing register or through private sector leasing.

Of those currently living in Emergency or Temporary Accommodation, the Council's Reviewing Officer has upheld 3 household's requests for a review of the suitability of their accommodation, whilst 2 reviews are pending.

Note – in response to a supplementary question on a review of the suitability of existing temporary and short term accommodation, the Portfolio Holder highlighted the importance of bringing any individual cases to his attention. Regarding the wider implications of the question, the Portfolio Holder highlighted the changing nature of demand in temporary accommodation towards an increase in families, to which the Council was responding. He concluded by encouraging Members to contact the Council's Homelessness team with any concerns they may have within their communities over the Christmas period and beyond.

REPORT OF AUDIT COMMITTEE

[\(Meeting held on 27 January 2023\)](#)

1. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2023/24 (MINUTE NO 38)

The Committee has considered the Treasury Management Strategy 2023/24 to 2025/26 including the Annual Treasury Management Investment Strategy for 2023/24 (and the remainder for 2022/23.) and the Treasury Indicators.

Following detailed consideration by the Committee, the policies and approvals sought are:

Treasury Management Strategy Statement

The Treasury Management Strategy Statement sets out how the Council's treasury service will support the capital expenditure and financing decisions taken over the three-year period from 2023/24 to 2025/26.

The day-to-day treasury management function and the limitations on activity through treasury indicators are also set out in the Statement. This report has been prepared prior to the adoption of the Capital Programme for 2023/24 and subsequent years. Therefore, the target indicators may be subject to minor variation. These indicators are targets only and minor adjustments will not be reported. Any adjustments to the treasury management limits will be reported.

Treasury Management Investment Strategy

Treasury risk management at the Council is conducted within the framework of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Treasury Management in Public Services: Code of Practice (the CIPFA Code). This report fulfils the Council's legal obligation under the Local Government Act 2003 to have regard to the CIPFA Code.

The Treasury Management investment strategy sets out the Council's criteria for choosing investment counterparties and limiting exposure to the risk of loss.

This strategy is shown in Annex A in Section 5 of Item 5 of the Audit Committee agenda. The above policies and parameters provide an approved framework within which officers undertake the day-to-day treasury activities. This strategy aims to strike a balance between allowing for current investment levels to continue, whilst also considering the Council's intention to directly invest in both commercial and residential property.

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) That the Treasury Management Strategy 2023/24 to 2025/26 including the Annual Treasury Management Investment Strategy for 2023/24 (and the remainder for 2022/23.), and the Treasury Indicators contained within Annex A to Item 5 of the Audit Committee agenda, be agreed.***
- (b) That authority be delegated to the Section 151 Officer, who in turn delegates to Hampshire County Council's Director of Corporate Operations, as agreed in the Service Level Agreement, to manage all Council investments (other***

than the high yield investment portfolio) and borrowing according to the Treasury Management Strategy Statement as appropriate.

2. INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2023/24 (Minute No 39)

The Committee has also considered the proposed Investment Strategy for 2023/24.

The Council currently holds, and intends to increase, its exposure in a variety of Investments held in part for the purpose of generating additional income to the Council.

By producing this strategy report, the Council is following statutory guidance issued by the Government in January 2018

The Investment Strategy incorporates all of the Council's investment activities, which consist of:

- **Treasury Management Investments** (see Item 1 above)
- **Property Investments**

Treasury Management Investments

The Investment Strategy has regard to the Treasury Management Strategy, which sets out in detail how the Council's treasury service will invest surplus cash, taking into consideration the requirements of the Council's capital programme, and other financing needs. The balance of treasury management investments fluctuates and can exceed £100m at given points during a fiscal period.

Property Investments

The Property investments section of the strategy brings together properties which have been in NFDC ownership for several years, as well as the accumulation of property investment strategies that have been adopted more recently by this Council. Although the primary purpose of these adopted strategies is to support the economic sustainability and regeneration within the District and provide additional housing to support New Forest residents and communities, the strategies also generate a revenue return, hence being prevalent to this investment strategy.

The strategy considers the contribution made by these investments, the security, the risk assessment process and liquidity. The strategy sets out various performance indicators, designed to assist readers understand the implications of the Council's investing activities on the general fund, and the forecast yields expected from the differing investment categories.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Investment Strategy for 2023/24, as set out in Appendix 1 of Audit Committee Report 6 of the Audit Committee agenda, be approved.

**CLLR A ALVEY
CHAIRMAN**

REPORT OF GENERAL PURPOSES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

[\(Meeting held on 10 February 2023\)](#)

1. FEES AND CHARGES FOR 2023-2024 – LICENSING SERVICE

As part of the annual review of budgets, the Committee has reviewed non-statutory fees and charges for the Licensing Service for 2022/2023.

The Council has a statutory responsibility for the administration and enforcement of a wide range of licences, registrations and permits. Many of these schemes allow the Council to charge a fee, payable by an applicant for a licence, permit or registration, to cover the costs of the administration of those licence types.

Fees are set under the Licensing Act 2003 and the Gambling Act 2005 and the Council has no discretion in amending these. Gambling premises licence fees are capped and permit and lottery fees are fixed amounts. However, the Council is able to set fees for a number of other licence types; Taxis (drivers, vehicles and operators), Animal Welfare (boarding breeding, riding and pet shops), Piercing (tattoo, acupuncture and skin piercing) and Pleasure boats (boatmen and vessels), residential caravan sites and scrap metal dealers (site and collectors).

At their meeting on 10 February 2023, the General Purposes and Licensing Committee considered a report on the Licensing services' discretionary fees and charges for 2023/2024.

The Licensing service proposed an increase in the fees and charges for the 2023/2024 financial year, as detailed in the report for Item 4 in the agenda. The Committee were reminded that the purpose of the fees and charges were not to generate profit but were, where possible, to cover the costs of the service. It was explained that the cost of administering the Licensing service and the additional work, such as premises inspections, were gauged when calculating the new fees and charges. The inflation rate rise was also a major consideration. Members acknowledged that many of the licensable activities related to people's jobs and employment and that the cost-of-living crisis continued to impact people's finances. Therefore, a large increase in fees would not be desirable and that only the reasonable increase in fees and charges, to cover service costs, as set out in the report, would be acceptable.

There are no proposed changes to the taxi and private hire fees at this current time due to a comprehensive review taking place of the taxi licensing policy in 2022, taking into account new statutory guidance, the fee structure, public safety and best practice and will be consulted on with Members, the trade, the public and all other relevant organisations.

RECOMMENDED:

That the recommended fees for the financial year 2023/24, as set out on pages 5 and 6 of the report to General Purposes and Licensing Committee at item 4 of the Committee agenda, be agreed.

CLLR S CLARKE

CHAIRMAN

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REPORT OF HR COMMITTEE

[\(Meeting held on 12 January 2023\)](#)

1. PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2023/24 (MINUTE NO 34)

The HR Committee is recommending the adoption of the Pay Policy Statement for 2023/24.

The Localism Act 2011 requires the Council to prepare a pay policy statement for each financial year. The statement must set out the Council's policies for the financial year relating to the remuneration of its Chief Officers, the remuneration of its lowest paid employees and the relationship between the remuneration of its Chief Officers and other employees.

A recommended statement for 2023/24 was included at Appendix 1 to the HR Committee report and detailed the policies in place from 1 April 2023. This also contained the Pension Policy Statement.

The pay award for 2022/23 has been agreed nationally for Chief Executives, Chief Officers and those covered by the Green book and was been implemented in the November 2022 payroll at £1925 for all staff backdated to 1 April 2022.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Pay Policy Statement 2023/24 as set out in Appendix 1 of Report 7 of the HR Committee agenda, be approved.

CLLR J CLEARY

CHAIRMAN

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REPORT OF COMMUNITY, PARTNERSHIPS AND WELLBEING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL

(Meeting held on 17 January 2023)

1. COUNCIL MOTION – PETS AS PRIZES (MINUTE NO 20)

At its meeting on 17 January 2023, the Community, Partnerships and Wellbeing Overview & Scrutiny Panel considered the following motion from Council, submitted by Cllr Tipp:

“This Council:-

- Is concerned about the number of cases reported to the RSPCA each year, regarding pets being given as prizes via fairgrounds, social media and other channels in England - and notes the issue predominantly concerns goldfish.*
- Is concerned for the welfare of those animals that are being given as prizes.*
- Recognises that many cases of pets being given as prizes may go unreported each year.*
- Supports a move to ban the giving of live animals as prizes, in any form, on New Forest District Council land. The Council agrees to:*
- Ban outright the giving of live animals as prizes, in any form, on New Forest District Council land.*
- Write to the UK Government, urging an outright ban on the giving of live animals as prizes on both public and private land.”*

The Panel noted that the giving of animals as prizes could not be controlled by the Council under the animal welfare licensing regime. However, the Council could consider requiring officers to include conditions precluding the giving of pets as prizes in agreements prior to giving consent to use of its land.

In addition, it was suggested that the Council could write to town and parish councils requesting that they put similar restrictions on any event organisers using their land.

Following advice from officers, the Panel recommends the following measures outlined in response to the motion.

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) That the Council's Estates and Open Spaces Service be asked to include conditions precluding the giving of pets as prizes in agreements prior to giving consent to use of its land.**
- (b) That a letter be sent to all Parish and Town Councils in the New Forest district, urging them to adopt the same approach in imposing conditions on use of their land precluding the giving of pets as prizes.**
- (c) That a letter be sent on behalf of the Council to the Government urging an outright ban on the giving of live animals as prizes on both public and private land.**

**CLLR K CRAZE
CHAIRMAN**

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REPORT OF ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL

[\(Meeting held on 12 January 2023\)](#)

1. COUNCIL MOTION – SUPPORT FOR NEW FOREST FARMERS

At their meeting on 12 January 2023, the Environment and Sustainability Overview & Scrutiny Panel considered the following motion from Council, submitted by Cllr M Wade:

'The cost-of-living crisis affects all areas of our nation. However, many members of the farming community, so important in the production of 54% of the nation's food supply, are struggling to survive in the current financial environment and this includes many of New Forest's farmers. A thriving agricultural sector is crucial to New Forest's economy, landscape, and environment.

This council notes the cost of animal feed is up by 60% and fertilizer cost by 200%. In the last year, these and other increased costs are against a backdrop of a changing subsidy regime from the government with some farms at risk of losing up to 20% of their income this way. This is leading to many farmers to decide to give up their farms or raise food prices to survive further impacting the cost of living of ordinary New Forest residents.

This Council sees that some farmers are being forced to sell their back up land, which has Forest Rights, and the loss of this land has serious impact on the sustainability of the ancient New Forest tradition of commoning if alternative support for local farmers is not made available.

This Council recognises that government funding schemes to help farmers exist but due to the current financial environment different approaches need to be considered to improve on the ongoing support.

Therefore, this council will write to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs expressing its concerns about financial state of the farming community and request greater financial support for Farmers to be able to continue to produce food for the UK market at sustainable prices.'

Cllr M Wade presented the motion to Panel and highlighted his concerns regarding the impact that the cost-of-living crisis is having on farmers in the New Forest. The Panel considered how the rising costs of day-to-day goods, such as feed and fertiliser, were forcing some farmers to consider whether to sell their back up land and what implications this may have on both the Forest Rights and the sustainability of the Commoning tradition.

Members were receptive to the struggle facing farmers in the New Forest and their financial situation. It was considered how the rising cost in farming would have a knock-on effect to the wider community and economy. There was unanimous agreement that these concerns should be made to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in the form of a statement from NFDC.

RECOMMENDED:

That Council approve the motion and, supported by Council officers, write to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs requesting greater financial support for farmers.

CLLR S RIPPON-SWAINE

CHAIRMAN

REPORT OF CABINET

(Meeting held on 1 February 2023)

1. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (MINUTE NO 62)

The Leader was delighted to be receiving at the meeting the initial findings of an independent survey with New Forest residents. The survey shows strong performance for the authority against national benchmarks, along with some areas for improvement. The Council wants to be an evidence based Council using data and insight to ensure that resources are spent wisely. The Cabinet will look at the feedback from our residents in setting the Council's priorities moving forwards.

The Leader reported that work will continue with partners in the cost of living steering group to understand how to target our work together. She was pleased to report that funding had been awarded to over 15 New Forest organisations to contribute to the costs of setting up and running warm spaces this winter.

The Council is working to support local businesses and in January launched a new free scheme offering start-up support with over 17 New Forest residents and businesses already benefiting from advice and guidance. The new Platinum Jubilee Business Park, opening in the spring is already over one third let.

January has seen the launch of the 2023 New Forest Shop Doctor programme. This aims to improve the customer experience in town centres throughout the New Forest through a series of 'Mystery Shopper' visits. This year's programme is available to independent retail and hospitality businesses in Hythe, Lyndhurst, New Milton and Barton, as well as Milford on Sea and Brockenhurst. 70 businesses to date have been recruited to participate.

2. FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT (BASED ON PERFORMANCE APRIL TO DECEMBER INCLUSIVE 2022) (MINUTE NO 66)

The Cabinet noted the latest budgets forecasts of the General Fund, Capital and Housing Revenue Account, set out in paragraphs 4-6 of the Cabinet Report 4 of the Cabinet agenda.

The updated General Fund Budget takes into account all new reportable variations, at £21.373 million, an overall increase of £699,000 from the original budget estimate. The Capital Programme has been marginally reduced to £41.599 million for the year.

The Housing Revenue account has faced some pressures over the year to date, and these have been reported in previous monitoring reports, however a further budget adjustment of £190,000 is required. This results in an overall net additional budget requirement of £1.602 million. This budget deficit is expected to need to be funded from reserves, and therefore reducing the funding available in future years. The pressures of inflation, increasing service demands and new service pressures will have an impact on the Council's ability to repay existing debt and is likely to require increased borrowing in order to fund future capital programmes.

3. CEMETERIES PROVISION (MINUTE NO 67)

The Cabinet approved that, in order to meet predicted future interment needs, officers carry out further work to progress the expansion of interment provision of Calshot cemetery, including a new budget of £60,000 to facilitate the work, and that officers continue discussions with landowners of the adjacent and adjoining land identified at Milford Cemetery. The Cabinet also approved to progress a review of

eight closed churchyards and two additional nearing closure, to ensure the liabilities and risks are in compliance with legislation and to progress options for cremated remains columbaria and identify the most appropriate locations in cemeteries.

The Cabinet recognise the need to plan a way forward for future cemetery provision, ensuring the terms of the Local Government Act 1972 are adhered to and that the needs and trends relating to interment in the New Forest until at least 2040 are met. This can be met through the extension of existing cemeteries or new sites. Two cemeteries have been identified as having potential for extension, Milford Road, New Milton and Calshot.

At the Cabinet Meeting, Members expressed their support to the recommendations in the report, highlighting the role of the service and the importance of planning future cemetery provision.

4. RESIDENT INSIGHT (MINUTE NO 68)

The Cabinet supported the next steps following the completion of an independent Resident Insight Survey being carried out and outlined within the Cabinet report 6 of the Cabinet agenda, this includes a two-yearly resident survey to be carried out as well as sharing findings and anonymised data with partners.

The purpose of the resident insight survey is to better understand residents in terms of behaviours, perceptions, expectations and needs over time. The collection of data will help the Council to take an intelligent approach to inform decision making, policy development and service delivery.

760 interviews were conducted with residents aged 18 and over and sample quotas were set on the population profile of NFDC by gender, age, working status as well as ward.

The key findings are set out in section 5 of Cabinet report 6 of the Cabinet agenda and include information and statistics on for example, service satisfaction, internet use, customer contact, recycling and community safety.

The Cabinet note that the survey information will provide a good background to shape future service design, delivery and strategic objectives. An action plan will be developed in order to help realise the benefits of the data and enable implementation of the next steps.

At the Cabinet meeting, Members acknowledged the value in conducting a survey in order to ascertain the views of residents. The results are positive which is a credit to the work of officers delivering the Council's services in challenging times.

The Cabinet request that their thanks be passed to those officers involved in the Resident Insight Survey.

5. CLIMATE CHANGE & NATURE EMERGENCY ANNUAL UPDATE 2023 (MINUTE NO 69)

The Cabinet acknowledged the activities undertaken and progress made in 2022, in relation to the declared Climate Change and Nature Emergency; it acknowledged the role the authority has in supporting National Government policy and working with partners and the public to ensure all to understand and pay their part. The Cabinet approved the Climate Change and Nature Emergency Action Plan 2023, attached as Appendix 5 to Cabinet Report 7 of the Cabinet agenda. The Cabinet also supported the strategic direction of the NFDC's climate action and agreed to set a 5-year

Climate Change and Nature Emergency Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2028 in the summer, in accordance with the revised Corporate Plan.

The Cabinet note the work carried out since the first Climate Change and Nature Action Plan published in February 2022 and the three priorities programmes of activity – Carbon Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Nature Recovery.

It is recognised that in order to have the maximum outcomes and to deliver the best value for money, the District Council needs to act in partnership with neighbours and sector peers. Section 4 of Cabinet report 7 of the Cabinet agenda sets out the baseline data which would be used in order to set targets and to monitor progress.

A one-off budget of £500,000 has been included in the draft Capital Programme for 2022/23 to support the delivery of the Climate Change and Nature Emergency Action Plan. It is proposed that the Capital Programme for 2023/24-2025/26 includes an annual sum of £250,000 to further support the work.

At the Cabinet meeting, Members expressed their support to the report confirming the importance of reducing impact on the environment and to adopt a more sustainable approach.

Members suggested that a briefing be provided to all councillors after the election on the climate change and nature emergency and actions being undertaken to address this.

6. COMMUNITY GRANTS (MINUTE NO 70)

The Cabinet, having noted support from the Community, Partnerships and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Panel, and the detailed work and considerations of the Community Grants Task and Finish Group, approved Community Grant awards totalling £129,600 in revenue grants and £92,000 in capital grants for inclusion in the Medium-Term Financial Plan and proposed budget for 2023/24. The detailed awards are outlined in Appendices 1 and 2 to Cabinet Report 8 of the Cabinet Agenda.

Community Transport grant awards were approved. This totalled £50,027 and supported three transportation projects; Wheels to work, Call and Go, and Group Hire.

The Cabinet also approved a number of proposed changes to the process for applications for the financial year 2024/25, as detailed in the Cabinet report. These include a minimum grant application of £1,000 (an increase of £400), an amendment to the application form to include a question regarding whether a District of County Councillor grant has been sought, and consideration regarding whether to develop and agree a Service Level Agreement with New Forest Disability Information Service in order to formalise the working relationship and agree target outcomes.

At the Cabinet meeting, the Chairman of the Task and Finish Group expressed his thanks to the officers involved in the community grant process for their help and support.

7. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES – SCHEME TO APPLY FROM 1 APRIL 2023 (MINUTE NO 71)

The Council is required annually to make a scheme of members' allowances, which must be published.

The current scheme, proposed to be made as the scheme to apply from 1 April 2023, provides for the annual adjustment of allowances (basis, special responsibility, and

dependant carers' allowances) by the Local Government staff employees' national pay award annual percentage increase.

The employee's national pay award for 2023/24 is still being negotiated, however if an award is made, it will automatically, under the terms of the scheme be backdated to 1 April 2023. No other changes are possible without a recommendation from the Independent Remuneration Panel. Following the new Council in May, a further review of Members' allowances is proposed to be carried out, likely to be in 2024.

RECOMMENDED:

That the current scheme of members' allowances be made as the scheme to apply from 1 April 2023.

8. ASSET MAINTENANCE & REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME AND GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2023/24 (MINUTE NO 72)

The Cabinet agreed the schedule of projects, as included at Appendix 1 and 2 to Cabinet report 10 of the Cabinet Agenda, noting the commitment for expenditure beyond 2023/24 whereby a project commences in 2023/24 and extends into future years, for adoption by the Council. The Cabinet also agreed the vehicle and plant replacement programme for a two-year period, covering purchases due in 2023/24 and 2024/25, for adoption by the Council.

The proposed capital programme for 2023/24 totals £15.032 million, including outline financing, as included within Appendix 2 of the Cabinet report. The report highlights project proposals for a 3-year period. This includes the lead in time for the vehicles and plant acquisition programme, where the programme costs for 23/24 and 24/25 sought approval now, in order to enable the necessary work to commence in the year prior to when the new vehicles and plant will be delivered. Funding for the new Depot site has also been earmarked over the period 2023/24 and 2024/25. This is for a new depot at Hardley Industrial Estate, as a replacement for the new Claymeadow depot. This scheme is subject to Cabinet approval of a business case.

At the Cabinet meeting, a Cabinet Member spoke about the importance of investing and maintaining the Council's assets, highlighting the proposed long-term commitment to invest £7 million in a new modern, efficient depot at Hardley.

RECOMMENDED:

(a) That the schedule of projects, as included at Appendix 1 and 2 of the Cabinet report 10 of the Cabinet agenda be approved within the 2023/24 budget, noting this commits the Council to expenditure beyond 23/24 whereby a project commences in 2023/24 and extends into future years: and

(b) That the Vehicle and Plant replacement programme be approved for a 2-year period, covering purchases due in 2023/24 and 2024/25.

9. CAPITAL STRATEGY 2023/24 (MINUTE NO 73)

The Cabinet agreed the Capital Strategy 2023/24, as outlined in Cabinet Report 11 of the Cabinet Agenda, including the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) statement, for adoption by the Council.

The Capital Strategy confirms at a high level what the Council is intending to spend its money on over the medium term and how it intends to finance this expenditure. Over the period covered by 2023/24 to 2025/26, total capital expenditure is forecast at around £139 million.

The Cabinet report sets out that the Council is initially intending to utilise the cash balances it has accrued to deliver the various adopted strategies, including the acquisition and development of Commercial Property. It will also supplement internal resources, when necessary, with external borrowing and in accordance with advice it receives from its contracted Treasury Management experts. Based on the current set of prudential indicators, that external borrowing will be required each year from 2023/24.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Capital Strategy 2023/24 be approved, including the adoption of the MRP statement as set out below:

“For capital expenditure that has been incurred, and which has given rise to a CFR, the MRP policy for expenditure other than that incurred on investment property and dwellings, shall be to charge revenue an amount equal to the depreciation of any asset financed by loan. The MRP policy specific to investment properties and dwellings financed by loan, shall be to charge revenue an amount equivalent to the sum of borrowing utilised, over a repayment period of 50 years.”

10. DELEGATION OF POWERS TO OFFICERS (MINUTE NO 74)

The Cabinet approved changes to the Council’s Scheme of Delegation of Powers to Officers as a result of recent changes to the Council’s staffing structures. This replaces all references to “Executive Head” with “Strategic Director” and includes a new delegation to “Assistant Director” in respect of all powers currently delegations to Strategic Directors, Service Managers, and all other Council officers.

**COUNCILLOR J CLEARY
CHAIRMAN**

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REPORT OF CABINET

(Meeting held on 15 February 2023)

1. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (MINUTE NO 75)

At the Cabinet meeting, the Leader reassured Members and the public that the Council has a comprehensive communications plan regarding the Voter ID at May elections. The plan will involve reaching out to different groups that are less likely to have an existing photographic ID. The Council's Information Offices will assist those who may not have suitable photographic ID through the Government Voter authority certificate.

Following the Local Elections in May 2023, the King's Coronation weekend is taking place and there will be an additional bank holiday on Monday 8 May. The Council are advising residents how to get involved with volunteering and community organisation groups to arrange street parties.

2. HOUSING SERVICES RESOURCES 23/24 – ARISING FROM THE NEW SOCIAL HOUSING REGULATION CHANGES (MINUTE NO 79)

The Cabinet, having considered a report on the new housing improvement regime, starting in Spring 2023, and the resources that are required to meet the fundamental new requirements placed upon the Council, are recommending to Council. The Council's Executive Management Team (EMT) have endorsed the need for these extra resources and that it is recommended they form part of the 23/24 budget.

The Cabinet acknowledge that the new regime features several key measures that aim to improve the standards of social housing in the District. It should be noted that the Council has made significant improvements and investment across the Housing Service and that more will be done to enable the Council to respond appropriately to the wide-ranging new duties.

Statutory compliance and housing quality, gas and electrical compliance, structural/disrepair work, damp and mould and anti-social behaviour are among the examples listed as areas where new resources are required. The total, additional costs required are £459,000.

Cabinet are reassured that the 22 new tenant satisfaction measures will be sufficiently covered and that this will not be to the detriment of other areas of concern, such as insulation, greener housing and electrical standards.

Cabinet are pleased to hear examples that the housing service have efficiently resolved issues of damp and mould within homes in the District. This speaks to the ongoing work that the housing team undertake and reassures Cabinet that the ongoing, strong levels of engagement with tenants will continue to improve with the new Tenant Engagement Manager overseeing the outreach to all areas of the District.

The Housing and Homelessness Overview and Scrutiny Panel has noted the new requirements placed on housing services, arising from the new Social Housing Regulation Bill and are supportive of the actions and additional resources needed to meet these requirements.

RECOMMENDED:

That the resources the Housing Service has requested, as part of the 23/24 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget to deal with the changes and improvements required under the Social Housing Regulation Bill, the new Tenant Satisfaction Measures regime the new Social Housing Residents Charter, be approved.

3. HOUSING SERVICES RENT SETTING AND SERVICE CHARGE POLICY (MINUTE NO 80)

The Cabinet, having considered the new rent setting and service charge policy for 2023/2024 is recommending to Council. Decision making in relation to rent and service charge setting must be transparent and appropriately monitored. In the case of this policy, the requirement is for rent setting to be aligned with the HRA Medium Term Financial Plan and 30 Year Business Plan. Formula rent represents the maximum rent level that the Council can set for each property.

Having considered the proposed uplifts in domestic energy and communal services charges alongside the financial pressures the HRA was facing, the Cabinet accept that it is necessary to try to maximise income to cover the expenditure required by the Council.

The Housing and Homelessness Overview and Scrutiny Panel has acknowledged the proposed rent setting and service charge policy and the proposed changes to the rent. The Panel are reassured that the Tenant Involvement Group are largely supportive of the proposed recommendations and the understanding that the financial pressures the HRA is facing mean that reasonable and necessary measures are taken.

The Cabinet are reassured that those residents who have received an affordability assessment are receiving the requisite assistance and that there is ongoing support provided.

RECOMMENDED:

That Council approve:

- (a) the rent setting and service charge policy (as at Appendix 1 of the Cabinet report) in the context of government rent setting policy, HRA housing revenue account budget and housing public sector capital expenditure programme 2023/24.***
- (b) The proposed changes to current rent setting processes to apply formula rent to the reletting of social rent dwellings and rent flexibility where applicable.***
- (c) The proposed increase to domestic energy charges of up to 25% and up to a 7% uplift of the charges for communal services received, to match the proposed increase in the basic rent for 23/24 from 3rd April 2023.***

4. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET AND THE HOUSING SECTOR CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAMME FOR 2023/2024 (MINUTE NO 81)

The Cabinet, having considered the proposed Housing Revenue Account budget, including the proposed rent levels and other charges, maintenance programme and proposed Housing Public Sector Capital Programme for 2023/24-2025/26, is recommending to Council.

Cabinet is conscious of the on-going challenges facing Housing Authorities and Registered Providers. The proposals, as set out in the report and its appendices, seek to increase rents in line with the Government's current recommendation and strike a balance to ensure that the Council continues to provide high quality services to tenants and that the necessary programmes of maintenance and repairs to housing stock, along with the delivery of affordable new Council homes in the District are achieved.

The Council should be mindful of the Tenants Involvement Group's views and their overall understanding of the fee increases and appreciation of the maintenance and refurbishment of housing stock.

The Housing and Homelessness Overview and Scrutiny Panel have expressed their understanding of the proposed increase in rent and recognise that the social and shared ownership rent is increasing in accordance with the Government guidelines. The Panel accepts the recommendations in the report.

RECOMMENDED:

That Council approve:

- (a) The HRA budget, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.***
- (b) An increase in rents of 7.0% from the 2022/2023 weekly rent level, in accordance with Government guidelines, from 03 April 2023.***
- (c) An increase in garage rents of 13% from the 2022/23 weekly rent level, from 03 April 2023.***
- (d) An increase in shared ownership property rents of 7% from the 2022/23 weekly rent level, varied from the allowed RPI +1% increase of 13.1% in accordance with Government request of the Housing Sector, from 03 April 2023.***
- (e) A further uplift in domestic energy service charges of up to a maximum of 25% and an increase of up to 7% in communal service charges in line with the annual rent increase, ahead of a wider review and consultation later in the year, from 03 April 2023.***
- (f) A Housing Capital Programme to 2025/26, as set out in Appendix 5 of the report.***

5. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN AND ANNUAL BUDGET 23/24 (MINUTE NO 82)

The Cabinet, having considered the development of the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP), the General Fund revenue and capital budgets for 2023/2024, and the proposed level of Band D Council Tax, are recommending to Council.

It should be acknowledged that despite the MTFP position to 2026/27 forecasting a budget deficit of £1.324 million, there are options within the plan to close the gap via crystallisation of new income and the delivery of savings and efficiencies among other methods. As of the Autumn 2022 Statement, additional funding is available in England of up to £1 billion of new grant funding In 2023-24. This is welcome news given the rising interest rates, CPI inflation levels and general costs. Although a one-year funding settlement leaves some uncertainty over the medium term, the Cabinet are reassured that the Council is working to cover its own expenditure pressures to deliver key services to residents.

The Council's proposed budget has put aside additional resources to facilitate the delivery of key Corporate Plan objectives. The establishment of a senior management group to ensure delivery of projects, efficiencies, income and savings to protect the delivery of frontline services formed a core part of the strategy, and other resource streams propose to maximise income, support investment, safeguard frontline service and balance the needs of service users and council taxpayers.

Cabinet acknowledge that sustainability, regeneration, local employment & economic growth and customer & employee communications are areas where financial resource has been targeted. Comparably to other Council's across the country, NFDC will also face challenges and economic pressures over the medium and longer term, however the Council remains in a robust financial position with a balanced budget for the 2023/24 financial year and a plan to address the medium term forecast deficit to 2026/27.

The Cabinet is satisfied that the budget preparation process was robust, that reserve levels are adequate and that the forecasted reduction in reserves is well planned and uses the resources available to the best effect in an appropriate and sensible manner.

Cabinet note the £300,000 one off investment that will be made in community safety and understand that this addresses directly one of the outcomes from the Council's resident survey, and will benefit community safety going forward.

RECOMMENDED:

That Council approve:

- (a) The General Fund Net Budget Requirement in 2023/24 of £22,468,250, as set out in appendices 5a - d to the Cabinet report.***
- (b) The New Forest District Council Band D Council Tax for 2023/24 of £193.99.***
- (c) The General Fund Capital Programme for 2023/24 of £15.031 million, as set out in appendix 6 of the Cabinet report.***
- (d) The proposed fees and charges as included at appendix 7 of the Cabinet report.***

6. FREEDOM LEISURE (MINUTE NO 83)

The Cabinet, having considered the proposed resolution of the matter relating to the deficit during Transition Year with the Freedom Leisure contract, is recommending to Council. Cabinet remain mindful of the position that the Council and Freedom Leisure

found themselves in regarding the impact that COVID-10 pandemic had on Year 1 of the contract.

The deficit incurred in the Transition Year was £1,866,650

Cabinet acknowledge the work that has been undertaken between the Council's Officers and Freedom Leisure, in accordance with the provisions within the contract, to negotiate an increase in the Management Fee from £1.23 million to £1.5 million. This is considered to be a reasonable outcome taking into account the bid parameters of the original tender exercise and Freedom Leisure have accepted this proposal.

It should be noted that had the project and the partnership agreement not been undertaken, the Council would be required to meet the entire deficit costs. Cabinet recognises how, despite Covid, the cost of living crisis and the energy crisis, the partnership approach to leisure services had ensured that the leisure centres remain open and not had to close any swimming pools. Recognition is also given to the improvements that Freedom Leisure have made in their service.

Scrutiny of the process to outsource the management of the Leisure Centres was undertaken and Cabinet acknowledges the dedicated work of the Task & Finish Group that had monitored and input into the process.

The Council should have regard to the legal advice provided in respect of the proposed arrangements, set out in full in the confidential Appendix 1 of the Cabinet report.

RECOMMENDED:

That Council approve the proposal, as set out in the report, to finalise the negotiated resolution related to the Transition Year deficit, in accordance with the procedure set out in the Council's contract.

**COUNCILLOR J CLEARY
CHAIRMAN**

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COUNCIL – 27 FEBRUARY 2023

THE 2023/24 COUNCIL TAX

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council is recommended to resolve:

- 1.1 That it be noted that on 7 December 2022 the Council calculated the Council Tax Base for the year 2023/24:
 - (a) for the whole Council area as 72,271.70 [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 the attached Appendix 3.
- 1.2 To calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council’s own purposes for 2023/24 (excluding Parish Precepts) is £14,019,990.
- 1.3 That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2023/24 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) £149,333,017 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) £127,765,480 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
 - (c) £21,567,537 being the amount by which the aggregate at 1.3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 1.3(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) £298.42 being the amount at 1.3(c) above (Item R), all divided by the Council Tax Base, Item T (1.1(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) £7,547,547 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per the attached Appendix 3).

(f) £193.99 being the amount at 1.3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 1.3(e) above by Item T (1.1(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	249.18
BEAULIEU	217.25
BOLDRE	222.77
BRAMSHAW	223.11
BRANSGORE	261.84
BREAMORE	224.19
BROCKENHURST	236.48
BURLEY	214.27
COPYTHORNE	215.12
DAMERHAM	236.34
DENNY LODGE	230.61
EAST BOLDRE	235.80
ELLINGHAM HARBRIDGE & IBSLEY	224.33
EXBURY & LEPE	193.99
FAWLEY	338.64
FORDINGBRIDGE	325.03
GODSHILL	250.10
HALE	245.11
HORDLE	258.74
HYDE	216.94
HYTHE & DIBDEN	325.36
LYMINGTON & PENNINGTON	311.68
LYNDHURST	268.29
MARCHWOOD	332.83
MARTIN	241.68
MILFORD-ON-SEA	255.29
MINSTEAD	225.79
NETLEY MARSH	220.47
NEW MILTON	311.31
RINGWOOD	305.49
ROCKBOURNE	280.60
SANDLEHEATH	225.40
SOPLEY	280.19
SWAY	243.48
TOTTON & ELING	346.75
WHITSBURY	215.37
WOODGREEN	234.35

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 1.3(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 1.1(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 5 for the full amounts of Council Tax.

LOCAL COUNCIL AREA	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
ASHURST & COLBURY	166.12	193.80	221.50	249.18	304.56	359.92	415.30	498.36
BEAULIEU	144.83	168.97	193.11	217.25	265.53	313.80	362.08	434.50
BOLDRE	148.51	173.26	198.02	222.77	272.28	321.78	371.28	445.54
BRAMSHAW	148.74	173.53	198.32	223.11	272.69	322.27	371.85	446.22
BRANSGORE	174.56	203.65	232.75	261.84	320.03	378.21	436.40	523.68
BREAMORE	149.46	174.37	199.28	224.19	274.01	323.83	373.65	448.38
BROCKENHURST	157.65	183.93	210.21	236.48	289.03	341.58	394.13	472.96
BURLEY	142.85	166.65	190.47	214.27	261.89	309.50	357.12	428.54
COPYTHORNE	143.41	167.31	191.22	215.12	262.93	310.73	358.53	430.24
DAMERHAM	157.56	183.82	210.08	236.34	288.86	341.38	393.90	472.68
DENNY LODGE	153.74	179.36	204.99	230.61	281.86	333.10	384.35	461.22
EAST BOLDRE	157.20	183.40	209.60	235.80	288.20	340.60	393.00	471.60
ELLINGHAM HARBRIDGE & IBSLEY	149.55	174.48	199.41	224.33	274.18	324.03	373.88	448.66
EXBURY & LEPE	129.33	150.88	172.44	193.99	237.10	280.20	323.32	387.98
FAWLEY	225.76	263.38	301.02	338.64	413.90	489.14	564.40	677.28
FORDINGBRIDGE	216.69	252.80	288.92	325.03	397.26	469.48	541.72	650.06
GODSHILL	166.73	194.52	222.31	250.10	305.68	361.25	416.83	500.20
HALE	163.41	190.64	217.88	245.11	299.58	354.04	408.52	490.22
HORDLE	172.49	201.24	229.99	258.74	316.24	373.73	431.23	517.48
HYDE	144.63	168.73	192.84	216.94	265.15	313.35	361.57	433.88
HYTHE & DIBDEN	216.91	253.05	289.21	325.36	397.67	469.96	542.27	650.72
LYMINGTON & PENNINGTON	207.79	242.41	277.05	311.68	380.95	450.20	519.47	623.36
LYNDHURST	178.86	208.67	238.48	268.29	327.91	387.53	447.15	536.58
MARCHWOOD	221.89	258.86	295.85	332.83	406.80	480.75	554.72	665.66
MARTIN	161.12	187.97	214.83	241.68	295.39	349.09	402.80	483.36
MILFORD-ON-SEA	170.19	198.56	226.93	255.29	312.02	368.75	425.48	510.58
MINSTEAD	150.53	175.61	200.71	225.79	275.97	326.14	376.32	451.58
NETLEY MARSH	146.98	171.47	195.98	220.47	269.47	318.45	367.45	440.94
NEW MILTON	207.54	242.13	276.72	311.31	380.49	449.67	518.85	622.62
RINGWOOD	203.66	237.60	271.55	305.49	373.38	441.26	509.15	610.98
ROCKBOURNE	187.07	218.24	249.43	280.60	342.96	405.31	467.67	561.20
SANDLEHEATH	150.27	175.31	200.36	225.40	275.49	325.57	375.67	450.80

LOCAL COUNCIL AREA	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
SOPLEY	186.79	217.92	249.06	280.19	342.46	404.72	466.98	560.38
SWAY	162.32	189.37	216.43	243.48	297.59	351.69	405.80	486.96
TOTTON & ELING	231.17	269.69	308.23	346.75	423.81	500.86	577.92	693.50
WHITSBURY	143.58	167.51	191.44	215.37	263.23	311.09	358.95	430.74
WOODGREEN	156.23	182.27	208.31	234.35	286.43	338.50	390.58	468.70

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 1.3(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.

- 1.4 That it be noted that Hampshire County Council (including Adult Social Care), the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and Isle of Wight and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service have issued precepts for 2023/24 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

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Ordinary	845.69	986.63	1,127.58	1,268.53	1,550.43	1,832.32	2,114.22	2,537.06
Adult Social Care	127.81	149.12	170.42	191.72	234.32	276.93	319.53	383.44
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL	973.50	1,135.75	1,298.00	1,460.25	1,784.75	2,109.25	2,433.75	2,920.50
HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT:-								
POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER	167.64	195.58	223.52	251.46	307.34	363.22	419.10	502.92
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE	53.62	62.56	71.49	80.43	98.30	116.18	134.05	160.86
	1,194.76	1,393.89	1,593.01	1,792.14	2,190.39	2,588.65	2,986.90	3,584.28

- 1.5 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 and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service precepts.
- 1.6 That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 1.3(h) and 1.4 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 2023/24 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings shown on the next page:-

LOCAL COUNCIL AREA	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
ASHURST & COLBURY	1,360.88	1,587.69	1,814.51	2,041.32	2,494.95	2,948.57	3,402.20	4,082.64
BEAULIEU	1,339.59	1,562.86	1,786.12	2,009.39	2,455.92	2,902.45	3,348.98	4,018.78
BOLDRE	1,343.27	1,567.15	1,791.03	2,014.91	2,462.67	2,910.43	3,358.18	4,029.82
BRAMSHAW	1,343.50	1,567.42	1,791.33	2,015.25	2,463.08	2,910.92	3,358.75	4,030.50
BRANSGORE	1,369.32	1,597.54	1,825.76	2,053.98	2,510.42	2,966.86	3,423.30	4,107.96
BREAMORE	1,344.22	1,568.26	1,792.29	2,016.33	2,464.40	2,912.48	3,360.55	4,032.66
BROCKENHURST	1,352.41	1,577.82	1,803.22	2,028.62	2,479.42	2,930.23	3,381.03	4,057.24
BURLEY	1,337.61	1,560.54	1,783.48	2,006.41	2,452.28	2,898.15	3,344.02	4,012.82
COPYTHORNE	1,338.17	1,561.20	1,784.23	2,007.26	2,453.32	2,899.38	3,345.43	4,014.52
DAMERHAM	1,352.32	1,577.71	1,803.09	2,028.48	2,479.25	2,930.03	3,380.80	4,056.96
DENNY LODGE	1,348.50	1,573.25	1,798.00	2,022.75	2,472.25	2,921.75	3,371.25	4,045.50
EAST BOLDRE	1,351.96	1,577.29	1,802.61	2,027.94	2,478.59	2,929.25	3,379.90	4,055.88
ELLINGHAM HARBRIDGE & IBSLEY	1,344.31	1,568.37	1,792.42	2,016.47	2,464.57	2,912.68	3,360.78	4,032.94
EXBURY & LEPE	1,324.09	1,544.77	1,765.45	1,986.13	2,427.49	2,868.85	3,310.22	3,972.26
FAWLEY	1,420.52	1,657.27	1,894.03	2,130.78	2,604.29	3,077.79	3,551.30	4,261.56
FORDINGBRIDGE	1,411.45	1,646.69	1,881.93	2,117.17	2,587.65	3,058.13	3,528.62	4,234.34
GODSHILL	1,361.49	1,588.41	1,815.32	2,042.24	2,496.07	2,949.90	3,403.73	4,084.48
HALE	1,358.17	1,584.53	1,810.89	2,037.25	2,489.97	2,942.69	3,395.42	4,074.50
HORDLE	1,367.25	1,595.13	1,823.00	2,050.88	2,506.63	2,962.38	3,418.13	4,101.76
HYDE	1,339.39	1,562.62	1,785.85	2,009.08	2,455.54	2,902.00	3,348.47	4,018.16
HYPHE & DIBDEN	1,411.67	1,646.94	1,882.22	2,117.50	2,588.06	3,058.61	3,529.17	4,235.00
LYMINGTON & PENNINGTON	1,402.55	1,636.30	1,870.06	2,103.82	2,571.34	3,038.85	3,506.37	4,207.64
LYNDHURST	1,373.62	1,602.56	1,831.49	2,060.43	2,518.30	2,976.18	3,434.05	4,120.86
MARCHWOOD	1,416.65	1,652.75	1,888.86	2,124.97	2,597.19	3,069.40	3,541.62	4,249.94
MARTIN	1,355.88	1,581.86	1,807.84	2,033.82	2,485.78	2,937.74	3,389.70	4,067.64
MILFORD-ON-SEA	1,364.95	1,592.45	1,819.94	2,047.43	2,502.41	2,957.40	3,412.38	4,094.86
MINSTEAD	1,345.29	1,569.50	1,793.72	2,017.93	2,466.36	2,914.79	3,363.22	4,035.86
NETLEY MARSH	1,341.74	1,565.36	1,788.99	2,012.61	2,459.86	2,907.10	3,354.35	4,025.22
NEW MILTON	1,402.30	1,636.02	1,869.73	2,103.45	2,570.88	3,038.32	3,505.75	4,206.90
RINGWOOD	1,398.42	1,631.49	1,864.56	2,097.63	2,563.77	3,029.91	3,496.05	4,195.26
ROCKBOURNE	1,381.83	1,612.13	1,842.44	2,072.74	2,533.35	2,993.96	3,454.57	4,145.48
SANDLEHEATH	1,345.03	1,569.20	1,793.37	2,017.54	2,465.88	2,914.22	3,362.57	4,035.08
SOPLEY	1,381.55	1,611.81	1,842.07	2,072.33	2,532.85	2,993.37	3,453.88	4,144.66
SWAY	1,357.08	1,583.26	1,809.44	2,035.62	2,487.98	2,940.34	3,392.70	4,071.24
TOTTON & ELING	1,425.93	1,663.58	1,901.24	2,138.89	2,614.20	3,089.51	3,564.82	4,277.78
WHITSBURY	1,338.34	1,561.40	1,784.45	2,007.51	2,453.62	2,899.74	3,345.85	4,015.02
WOODGREEN	1,350.99	1,576.16	1,801.32	2,026.49	2,476.82	2,927.15	3,377.48	4,052.98

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Members are required to calculate and set the Council Tax for 2023/24.

2.2 The level of tax is determined by the spending needs of this Council, Hampshire County Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and Isle of Wight, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service and the Town and Parish Councils. Although the District Council has no control over the expenditure of the other organisations, it has to ensure that the Council Tax is set at the right level to meet the combined budgets.

- 2.3 Members will have considered earlier in this agenda the recommended General Fund revenue budget for 2023/24, which is outlined in Section 4 below. Any changes made at that stage could change the Council Tax figures shown in this report.
- 2.4 The recommended Council Tax for every District Council area is shown in paragraph 1.6 of this report.
- # 2.5 Appendix 1 attached to this report supplements the prescribed layout of the recommendations by showing how the figures used in paragraph 1.3 have been arrived at.

3. THE 2023/24 COUNCIL TAX BILL

- 3.1 This report recommends a Council Tax level of £2,090.56 for 2023/24. This is an average figure based on a band 'D' property and is an increase of £102.57 (5.16%) over the equivalent figure for 2022/23.
- # 3.2 Each dwelling falls into one of eight valuation bands (A to H) for tax purposes. More details are given in Appendix 2.
- 3.3 The tax level is based upon the 2023/24 budgets of all precepting authorities in this area. The District, County Council, Police and Crime Commissioner and Fire and Rescue Service elements of the total tax bill are the same throughout the area but the Town/Parish Councils each determine their own tax levels. There are 8 bands of Council Tax for each of the 37 Town/Parish areas, giving 296 separate tax figures.
- 3.4 If the recommendations in this report are accepted there will be a range of Band D Council Tax levies from £1,986.13 to £2,138.89. The average figures are as follows :-

	2022/23	2023/24	INCREASE	
	AVERAGE £	AVERAGE £	£	%
New Forest District Council	188.36	193.99	5.63	2.99
Ordinary	1226.95	1,268.53	41.58	3.39
Adult Social Care	163.91	191.72	27.81	16.97
Hampshire County Council	1,390.86	1,460.25	69.39	4.99
Hampshire and Isle of Wight:-				
Police and Crime Commissioner	236.46	251.46	15.00	6.34
Fire and Rescue Service	75.43	80.43	5.00	6.63
	1,891.11	1,986.13	95.02	5.02
Parish/Town Councils	96.88	104.43	7.55	7.79
	1,987.99	2,090.56	102.57	5.16

- 3.5 The proposed 2023/24 Council Tax for all areas is shown in paragraph 1.6 of this report.
- 3.6 There is a discount of 25% where only one adult lives in a dwelling, reductions for disabled persons whose homes have certain facilities, and a Council Tax Reduction scheme for persons with low incomes.
- 3.7 Council Tax bills can be payable by instalments from 1 April. The date of the first instalment only may have to be delayed slightly to ensure that there is a statutory period of 14 days between the date the bills are issued and the date the first payment becomes due.
- 3.8 More detailed information on the Council Tax, including a summary of how it is spent is available on our website: www.newforest.gov.uk/counciltax.

4. NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

- 4.1 The proposed 2023/24 General Fund budget requirement, elsewhere on this agenda, totals £22,468,250. After deducting retained Business Rates, Government support and collection fund adjustments of £8,448,260, the District Council needs to raise £14,019,990 through Council Tax. This requires a District Council Tax of £193.99 for a Band D property, which means there is an increase of £5.63 (2.99%) over the equivalent figure for 2022/23.

5. HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

- 5.1 Hampshire County Council met on the 23 February 2023 and set its precept upon this Council at £105,534,750 (including the precept element relating to Adult Social Care). This results in a Band D Council Tax of £1,460.25 (£1,268.53 'ordinary' precept, and £191.72 Adult Social Care precept), which represents an overall increase of £69.39 (4.99%) over the equivalent 2022/23 figure.

6. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT

- 6.1 The Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and Isle of Wight set a precept of £18,173,442 upon this Council. This results in a Band D Council Tax of £251.46, which represents an increase of £15.00 (6.34%) over the equivalent 2022/23 figure.

7. HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

- 7.1 Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service met on the 21 February 2023 and set its precept upon this Council at £5,812,813. This results in a Band D Council Tax of £80.43, which represents an increase of £5.00 (6.63%) over the equivalent 2022/23 figure.

8. TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS

- # 8.1 The Town and Parish Council precepts (Council Tax Requirements) for 2023/24 are detailed in Appendix 3 and total £7,547,547. This is an increase of £560,411 from 2022/23 and results in an average Band D Council Tax for 2023/24 of £104.43, an increase of £7.55 (7.79%) from 2022/23.

For Further Information:

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Background Papers

Published Documents

APPENDIX 1

SOURCE OF FIGURES SHOWN IN PARAGRAPH 1.3 OF THE REPORT

(a) (b) (c)

For the purposes of the recommendation, the estimated total net revenue expenditure of the Council for 2023/24 has to be shown i.e. including General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budgets and Town/Parish Council precepts: -

	Expenditure	Income	Council Tax Requirement
	£	£	£
General Fund	109,082,640	95,062,650	14,019,990
HRA	32,702,830	32,702,830	0
Town/Parish Precept	7,547,547	0	7,547,547
	<u>149,333,017</u>	<u>127,765,480</u>	<u>21,567,537</u>
	(a)	(b)	(c)

(d) This is the combined District Council and Town/Parish Council Tax at Band D: -

	£
District	193.99
Average Town/Parish	104.43
	<u>298.42</u>

(e) £7,547,547 is the total of the Town/Parish Council precepts as shown in Appendix 3.

(f) £193.99 is the District Council Tax at Band D. The sequence of figures in 1.3 (a) to (f) is intended to start from estimated total net 2023/24 expenditure, deduct grants and precepts and arrive at the net District Council Tax figure.

(g) This shows the Combined District and Town/Parish Council Tax for each area at Band D.

(h) Shows the figures in (g) for each valuation band.

VALUATION BANDS

All dwellings have been valued by the Inland Revenue for the purpose of Council Tax. Valuations are based on property prices at April 1991. There are eight valuation bands and each dwelling has been placed into one of these bands according to its assessed value at that time. Band A is the lowest. The higher the band, the higher the charge will be. See the table below: -

BAND	RANGE OF VALUES	PROPORTION
A	Values not exceeding £40,000	£1.00
B	Values exceeding £40,000 but not exceeding £52,000	£1.17
C	Values exceeding £52,000 but not exceeding £68,000	£1.33
D	Values exceeding £68,000 but not exceeding £88,000	£1.50
E	Values exceeding £88,000 but not exceeding £120,000	£1.83
F	Values exceeding £120,000 but not exceeding £160,000	£2.17
G	Values exceeding £160,000 but not exceeding £320,000	£2.50
H	Values exceeding £320,000	£3.00

For every £1.00 of Council Tax for a band 'A' property, a band 'B' property will be charged £1.17 - and so on. Any discounts and reductions would make the difference less than this.

Taxpayers in band 'A' who fulfil the criteria for a reduction under the Disability Reduction Regulations will receive a reduction on their bill equivalent to the difference between the band 'A' and band 'B' charge.

APPENDIX 3

SUMMARY OF LOCAL COUNCIL REQUIREMENTS

LOCAL COUNCIL	2023/24			
	COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENT	TAX BASE PROPERTIES	COUNCIL TAX PER BAND D	COUNCIL TAX INC. / (-) DEC. FROM 2022/23
	£		£	£
ASHURST AND COLBURY	51,730	937.30	55.19	6.82
BEAULIEU	12,000	516.00	23.26	7.82
BOLDRE	30,493	1,059.70	28.78	1.35
BRAMSHAW	10,000	343.40	29.12	0.14
BRANGGORE	124,011	1,827.60	67.85	6.41
BREAMORE	5,566	184.30	30.20	-0.02
BROCKENHURST	80,995	1,906.00	42.49	0.00
BURLEY	16,295	803.60	20.28	1.71
COPYTHORNE	25,779	1,219.90	21.13	1.00
DAMERHAM	10,541	248.90	42.35	0.73
DENNY LODGE	5,859	160.00	36.62	1.22
EAST BOLDRE	16,000	382.70	41.81	0.54
ELLINGHAM HARBRIDGE AND IBSLEY	19,175	632.00	30.34	-0.22
EXBURY AND LEPE	0	116.10	0.00	0.00
FAWLEY	673,458	4,655.90	144.65	5.44
FORDINGBRIDGE	318,152	2,427.90	131.04	12.88
GODSHILL	12,771	227.60	56.11	5.28
HALE	13,700	268.00	51.12	-0.36
HORDLE	158,000	2,440.10	64.75	14.68
HYDE	11,800	514.20	22.95	0.10
HYTHE AND DIBDEN	984,573	7,494.80	131.37	10.45
LYMINGTON AND PENNINGTON	886,365	7,531.10	117.69	4.30
LYNDHURST	110,000	1,480.40	74.30	2.71
MARCHWOOD	287,057	2,067.60	138.84	19.80
MARTIN	9,466	198.50	47.69	9.07
MILFORD-ON-SEA	179,874	2,934.20	61.30	10.73
MINSTEAD	12,000	377.30	31.80	-0.31
NETLEY MARSH	21,510	812.20	26.48	1.42
NEW MILTON	1,246,391	10,624.00	117.32	5.65
RINGWOOD	610,429	5,474.90	111.50	10.14
ROCKBOURNE	14,274	164.80	86.61	6.03
SANDLEHEATH	8,913	283.80	31.41	1.50
SOPLEY	33,600	389.80	86.20	4.55
SWAY	85,665	1,730.80	49.49	-0.45
TOTTON AND ELING	1,448,855	9,484.40	152.76	11.92
WHITSBURY	2,200	102.90	21.38	-0.42
WOODGREEN	10,050	249.00	40.36	1.98
	7,547,547	72,271.70	104.43	

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