

REPORT OF CABINET

(Meeting held on 4 December 2019)

1. PHASE III OF THE NATIONAL NETWORK OF REGIONAL COASTAL MONITORING PROGRAMMES (2021-2027) (MINUTE NO 47)

The Cabinet approved the continued integration of the South East Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme into the National Network of Regional Monitoring Programmes, alongside the continued lead role of New Forest District Council as the Lead Coordinating Authority.

The benefits of leading the initiative extend beyond those of the monitoring programmes themselves and include the knowledge and specialist skills of the Channel Coastal Observatory.

Cabinet fully support the proposed funding application being made for the continued delivery of the programme and greatly value the benefits to New Forest District Council.

2. CONSULTATION DRAFT TRANSPORT STRATEGY FOR THE SOUTH EAST BY TfSE (MINUTE NO 48)

The Cabinet supported the draft Transport Strategy for the South East as drafted by TfSE and requested that the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Infrastructure provide a detailed response on behalf of the Council.

Cabinet welcome the recognition of the priority of works to the Redbridge Causeway.

3. HYTHE AND DIBDEN NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN – MAKING THE PLAN (ADOPTION) (MINUTE NO 49)

The Cabinet, having noted the outcome of the referendum of 29 October 2019, is recommending that the Hythe and Dibden Neighbourhood Development Plan be 'made' as part of the development plan for the District.

It should be noted that as the designated Neighbourhood Plan area falls partly within the New Forest National Park, the New Forest National Park Authority are going through a similar process for the part of the plan area within their planning area.

Cabinet congratulates Hythe and Dibden Parish Council for bringing forward the first Neighbourhood Plan for adoption within the District.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Hythe and Dibden Neighbourhood Development Plan be 'made' (adopted) as part of the Development Plan for New Forest District (Outside the National Park).

4. COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2020/21 (MINUTE NO 50)

The Cabinet, having considered the work of the Task and Finish Group, are recommending options for the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

The Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Panel support the recommendations in full.

RECOMMENDED:

That Option B and C, as outlined at paragraph 6 of Cabinet Report 7 to the Cabinet Agenda, be adopted.

5. COUNCIL TAX DISCOUNTS, EXEMPTIONS AND PREMIUMS (MINUTE NO 51)

The Cabinet, having considered the work of the Task and Finish Group and the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Panel, are recommending options for Council Tax discounts, exemptions and premiums effective from 1 April 2020.

Having considered the balanced feeling across the Council on the support that could be provided to care leavers, Cabinet are recommending an amendment to the recommendations in Cabinet Report 8 to the Cabinet Agenda.

Cabinet recognise the need to help care leavers manage their finances to have a better chance of avoiding debt problems in the future. Therefore, Cabinet are recommending that care leavers under the age of 25 be exempt from Council Tax.

RECOMMENDED:

- a) That, insofar as it is entitled to do so by law, the discretionary discounts to and premiums on Council Tax as set out in options A and B in paragraph 4 of Cabinet Report 8 to the Cabinet Agenda, be approved.***
- b) That a local council tax exemption class be introduced from 1 April 2020 where:***
 - i. A property is occupied by one person who is liable for council tax and that person is a care leaver aged under 25, or***
 - ii. A property is occupied by more than one person who are jointly liable for council tax and those persons are care leavers aged under 25.***
- c) To review, by Task and Finish Group, the Empty Homes Premium in 2020.***

6. COUNCIL TAX 2020/21 SETTING THE TAX BASE (MINUTE NO 52)

The Cabinet are recommending the approval of the tax base for 2020/21.

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) That the calculation of the Council's tax base for the year 2020/21, be approved.***
- (b) That pursuant to the report and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2020, the amount calculated by this Council as its council tax base for the year 2020/21 be as follows and as detailed in Appendix 3 to Cabinet Report 9 to the Cabinet Agenda.***

PARISH/TOWN	TAX BASE 20/21
Ashurst & Colbury	930.5
Beaulieu	518.8
Boldre	1072.2
Bramshaw	344.8
Bransgore	1829.9
Breamore	181.2
Brockenhurst	1873.4
Burley	793.0
Copythorne	1219.7
Damerham	239.7
Denny Lodge	157.7

<i>East Boldre</i>	383.4
<i>Elingham, Harbridge & Ibsley</i>	613.6
<i>Exbury & Lepe</i>	110.8
<i>Fawley</i>	4596.5
<i>Fordingbridge</i>	2304.6
<i>Godshill</i>	223.6
<i>Hale</i>	266.3
<i>Hordle</i>	2422.2
<i>Hyde</i>	511.4
<i>Hythe & Dibden</i>	7458.1
<i>Lymington & Pennington</i>	7470.9
<i>Lyndhurst</i>	1458.4
<i>Marchwood</i>	2069.4
<i>Martin</i>	198.9
<i>Milford on Sea</i>	2841.0
<i>Minstead</i>	376.5
<i>Netley Marsh</i>	809.3
<i>New Milton</i>	10531.3
<i>Ringwood</i>	5362.0
<i>Rockbourne</i>	167.0
<i>Sandleheath</i>	280.0
<i>Sopley</i>	392.7
<i>Sway</i>	1703.8
<i>Totton & Eling</i>	9423.1
<i>Whitsbury</i>	101.9
<i>Woodgreen</i>	255.3
<i>Whole District</i>	71492.9

5. FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT (BASED ON PERFORMANCE APRIL TO OCTOBER 2019 INCLUSIVE) (MINUTE NO 53)

The Cabinet noted the latest budget forecasts of the General Fund (paragraph 4.2 of Cabinet Report 10 to the Cabinet Agenda), Capital (Paragraph 5.1) and Housing Revenue Account (paragraph 6.1) and approved an additional request in relation to the new Finance System (paragraph 4.5).

The Council is on track to deliver a fully funded budget.

6. MEETING DATE

The Cabinet agreed an additional meeting date as follows:-

10.00 am on Wednesday 19 February 2020.

**COUNCILLOR B RICKMAN
CHAIRMAN**