

REPORT OF CABINET

(Meeting held on 2 June 2021)

1. COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY – REPORT FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (MINUTE NO 4)

At the Cabinet meeting, the Leader provided a verbal update on the latest information concerning the Council's response to and recovery from COVID-19. It was reported that this would be the last Cabinet with a standing COVID-19 item on the agenda, as restrictions ease, the vaccine rollout continues and the remaining businesses reopen over the coming weeks. However, should this situation change, the Leader will update the Council.

Despite the success of the UK's vaccination programme, the pandemic is not over. Covid cases remain low but are creeping up, with approximately a 10% increase in infections in the UK from the previous week, representing one in every 1080 people. The increase in cases is linked to the spread of a more transmissible variant first identified in India.

More than 39 million people have now received the first dose of a vaccine in the UK. The Janssen single dose Covid vaccine has recently been approved by the UK and will help support this programme.

In the Council, Environmental Health have been asked to assist Public Health England with face to face contact tracing where people have a variant of concern or those not contactable who should be isolating.

Support to businesses re-opening has continued. Since April, the Council has paid out £11.5m in one-off Restart Grants to over 1,500 businesses in the non-essential retail, hospitality, leisure, personal care, accommodation and sports/gym sectors.

2. THE PARISH OF NEW MILTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 2016-2036 (MINUTE NO 5)

The Cabinet, having noted the outcome of the referendum of 6th May 2021, are recommending the adoption of the New Milton Neighbourhood Plan 2016-36 to Council.

87.9% of voters answered 'yes' to the question: *'Do you want New Forest District Council and New Forest National Park Authority to use the Neighbourhood Plan for New Milton to help it decide planning applications in the Neighbourhood Area?'*. The turnout was 35.7%. As the majority of those who voted (i.e. over 50%) are in favour of the draft Neighbourhood Plan, the Plan must be 'made' (adopted) within 8 weeks of the referendum date.

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 (NPA) are going through a similar process for the part of the Town Council within its planning area.

The Cabinet would like to thank New Milton Town Council for their hard work in bringing this matter forward, and the people of New Milton for taking part in the referendum.

RECOMMENDED:

That the New Milton Neighbourhood Plan (Appendix 1 to Cabinet Report 5 of the Cabinet Agenda) be 'made' (adopted) as part of the Development Plan for New Forest District (Outside the National Park).

3. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES (MINUTE NO 6)

The Cabinet, following the new Cabinet structure announced by the Leader of the Council on 12 April 2021, and following the Council's Annual Meeting on 5 May 2021, agreed the appointments to Outside Bodies as outlined in a revised Appendix 1 of Cabinet Report 6 to the Cabinet Agenda.

The report dealt only with those appointments necessitated by the changes above. Other Outside Body appointments made in June 2019 remain unchanged.

**COUNCILLOR E HERON
CHAIRMAN**