

REPORT OF CABINET

[\(Meeting held on 6 April 2022\)](#)

1. SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITIES (MINUTE NO 75)

The Cabinet, following the consideration of the Corporate Affairs and Local Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel, approved the utilisation of government funding towards Citizen Advice New Forest (CANF) of £35,000, to fund a debt supervisor for two years to build up resilience with debt advice and support to residents.

The Cabinet agreed to continue to work with our partners to explore further funding options and initiatives to support New Forest communities.

In response to COVID-19, the government allocated funding to provide additional support to council taxpayers which could also be used to deliver increased financial assistance through local support mechanisms. Consideration will be given to utilise the residual funding, with the first initiative being the support CANF with their debt advice service.

In 2020/21 CANF supported 5,600 clients with 14,000 issues. Of these, 47% were disabled or had long term health conditions (including mental health). Debt was one of the most common problems. Whilst the general advice CANF provide can support people onto the pathway on sorting out their debts, it is focused, local face-to-face specialist in depth debt casework that can properly support people with their complex debt issues.

The Cabinet welcome the investment which ensures that one of the Council's highly valued community organisations can add targeted support to the most vulnerable residents in the District and develop further training of their volunteers.

2. ADOPTION OF THE PARKING STANDARDS SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT (SPD) (MINUTE NO 76)

The Cabinet, having considered the detailed work of a Task and Finish Group, adopted a new Parking Standards Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). This supersedes the existing SPD of October 2012.

The SPD has been updated to take account of the step changes in national and local policy, ensuring that the standards achieve sustainable development in the context of climate change, acknowledging the Council's recent declaration of a Climate Change and Nature Emergency, and other drivers.

The Cabinet would like to thank the Task and Finish Group for its input in this work, particularly in reflecting the Council's declaration of a Climate Change and Nature Emergency.

Striking the right balance between providing sufficient parking to meet future needs and minimising the amount of land surfaced and set aside for parking is challenging. However, Cabinet consider that this SPD strikes that balance and will provide valuable guidance to planners, developers, communities, Town and Parish Council's and the Planning Committee. Importantly the SPD will contribute to delivering sustainable development across the District and addressing the climate and nature emergency.

At the Cabinet meeting, a number of Members welcomed the SPD and hoped that further electric vehicle charging points would be installed throughout the District, in both Council owned car parks and in new and existing development.

3. LOCAL PLANNING ENFORCEMENT PLAN 2022 (MINUTE NO 77)

The Cabinet, following the consideration of the Environment and Sustainability Overview and Scrutiny Panel, approved the formal adoption of the new Local Enforcement Plan 2022.

The Local Enforcement Plan 2022 outlines New Forest District Council's approach to encouraging compliance with its regulations and policies in a way that is in line with current government legislation and guidance.

The Plan sets out the proposed principles the Council should adopt towards Planning Enforcement, namely:

- Fairness
- Efficiency and Timeliness
- Professionalism and Integrity
- Confidentiality

Effective enforcement is important to maintain public confidence in the planning system, it is therefore important that the Council maintains an up to date plan. This Plan sets out clearly to all those that might become involved in planning enforcement how the Council manages enforcement proactively, in a way that is appropriate to the District area. The Plan has been written in plain English and sets out clearly a positive approach to planning enforcement. The Council will, when it is considered appropriate and proportionate to do so, take a robust approach to enforcing against confirmed breaches of planning control.

As part of effective monitoring, the Council is considering the introduction of regular reports to the Planning Committee on enforcement.

4. INTRODUCTION OF S106 MONITORING CHARGES (MINUTE NO 78)

The Cabinet, following the consideration of the Environment and Sustainability Overview and Scrutiny Panel, agreed to the introduction of S106 monitoring charges as set out in Cabinet Report 7 of the Cabinet Agenda.

The Local Government Act 2003 (Section 93) provides the legislative basis for local authorities to charge for discretionary services such as the administration/monitoring of Section 106 Agreements. An amendment to the CIL Regulations in September 2019 clarified that monitoring contributions could be sought through a S106 agreement, and it is in this context it is considered appropriate to recover the cost of administration and monitoring Section 106 obligations.

The proper administration of a Section 106 monitoring regime is resource intensive, and it is considered appropriate to ensure that monitoring is cost neutral to the Council.

Given the scale of development that will be delivered across the District through the Adopted Local Plan, to ensure that developments are maintained in the way the planning permission set out, future monitoring of completed developments plays a key role. It is appropriate to introduce a charging schedule so that developers pay for the resource needed to undertake this work rather than local residents. The Cabinet consider that this charging schedule sets the right balance around covering the additional cost of this work against the additional cost to the development. This is another positive step by the Council to ensure that it delivers sustainable development and contribute to addressing the climate and nature emergency.

5. STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER (MINUTE NO 79)

The Cabinet, following the detailed monitoring of the Audit Committee, adopted the latest version of the Strategic Risk Register, noting that it will remain under constant review. The Cabinet also agreed to formally consider the report on a quarterly basis.

Risk management aims to identify the risks that may impact on the Council achieving its objectives. Its purpose is to evaluate, design and implement effective measures to reduce both the likelihood and potential impact of these risks occurring.

The Strategic Risk Register (Appendix 1 of Cabinet Report 8 of the Cabinet Agenda), contains the significant risks, as identified by senior and executive council officers in consultation with the Portfolio Holders, in the Council achieving the priorities set out in the 'Community Matters Corporate Plan 2020-24'.

The Cabinet welcome the mitigation measures which bring strategic risks to either green or amber.

**COUNCILLOR E HERON
CHAIRMAN**