

REPORT OF CABINET

(Meeting held on 1 June 2022)

1. **DIBDEN GOLF CLUB RENT REVIEW AND LEASE VARIATION (MINUTE NO 5)**

The Cabinet approved a three year contract variation to the Main Lease at Dibden Golf Centre, commencing 1 April 2022. The variation revises the rent to £100,000 per annum, introduces a break clause with 12 months notice, and implements a surplus share arrangement which provides the Council with the first £30,000 per annum of any surplus generated during the contact variation period. Thereafter, any further surplus generated will be split between parties on a 50/50 basis.

The impact of the Covid 19 pandemic to Mytime Active, like all organisations, was significant. To try to offset some impact of the Covid 19 pandemic on the business, the Council provided financial support through the form of rent waivers during the pandemic. The Council received funding from central government to cover some, not all, of this period of rent relief.

During 2021 the golf course performed well in terms of participation, but it is felt that a return to pre-pandemic levels of usage across the whole offer on the site is likely to be gradual. Whilst golf membership and casual green fee income has performed well, other ancillary services such as events, functions and food & beverage has understandably not yielded expected levels of revenue due to social restrictions and a lack of consumer confidence associated with the pandemic.

To support the common objective to put Dibden Golf Centre on a sustainable financial footing, the parties entered negotiations for the rent and certain maintenance obligations under the Main Lease for the next three financial years covering 2022/23 – 2024/25.

The outcome of the negotiations deliver fairness for both the Council and provider whilst also maximising Council revenue. The Member Working Group continues to monitor the performance of the contract.

2. **ADOPTION OF THE AIR QUALITY ASSESSMENTS IN NEW DEVELOPMENT – SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT (MINUTE NO 6)**

The Cabinet adopted the Air Quality Assessments in New Development, as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). The SPD sets out an approach in planning terms to dealing with Air Quality Assessment in new development, including:-

- The type of air quality assessment required to assess the impact of development on local air quality in terms of human health and ecological receptors.
- how to manage and where possible reduce or mitigate activities that unacceptably impact on air quality.

Poor air quality can have a significant impact on both the health of the public and the natural environment. It is important that the Council ensures that when granting planning permission for new development, it is satisfied that the development will have a neutral impact or through the delivery of infrastructure, will improve air quality.

At the Cabinet meeting, the data underpinning the SPD was discussed in detail. It should be noted that the SPD is one tool to tackle air quality issues within the confines of development management and the planning system. The Council's wider response and priorities for air quality reach beyond this remit and officers have committed to

provide an update at a future Environment and Sustainability Overview and Scrutiny Panel meeting.

3. NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2022-2027 (MINUTE NO 7)

The Cabinet endorsed the New Forest National Park Partnership Plan, a live programme of work to ensure a richer and greener protected landscape in the National Park area.

All National Parks are required by statute to have a management plan / partnership plan for their area, to help guide the work of those with responsibilities or an interest in the national park.

The plan sets out a refreshed Vision for the New Forest National Park's future in the context of the climate crisis and green recovery and in response to the experiences of the pandemic. It renews the collective commitments to deliver the purposes for which the National Park was designated. This has been articulated into five themes, which will be the focus for the next five years. These are:-

- Nature Recovery – helping habitats to be more resilient, restored, expanded and connected
- Net Zero with Nature – cut land-based carbon emissions through securing and restoring natural habitats and enabling carbon capture
- Thriving Forest – supporting a living, working and culturally rich heritage
- An inclusive National Park – helping people of all socio-economic backgrounds to understand and value the New Forest
- Team New Forest – communities, businesses and organisations working together to deliver the vision of the plan.

Given the statutory duty on the Council to have regard to National Park purposes in exercising its functions, as it is a main partner organisation and given its role in contributing to the delivery of a number of the identified actions in the Partnership Plan, the Cabinet consider that the Plan should be endorsed.

4. OUTSIDE BODY APPOINTMENT – NEW FOREST ENTERPRISE CENTRE (MINUTE NO 8)

The Cabinet appointed Cllr Harris, Portfolio Holder for Business, Tourism and High Streets to the New Forest Enterprise Centre, following the retirement of Honorary Alderman Colin Wise as a Director. This takes the Council's representation to the maximum allocation of three directors.

The Cabinet would like to recognise the work of Honorary Alderman Colin Wise and his many years of service to the New Forest Enterprise Centre.

**COUNCILLOR E HERON
CHAIRMAN**