

REPORT OF CABINET

[\(Meeting held on 5 April 2023\)](#)

1. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (MINUTE NO 94)

At the Cabinet meeting, the Leader reassured Members and the public that the Council continues to drive its corporate priorities that matter to residents. Residents are facing challenging times and the Council is working with partners to deliver five, weekly 'Cost of Living' community hubs across the District. The hubs allow residents to meet with Officers from the Council's Benefits and Housing Teams as well as the Citizens Advice New Forest. Cost of living advice and signposting to the local national support remains available at the Council's website.

The District Council supported the Keep Britain Tidy 'Great British Spring Clean' programme with their very own 'New Forest Spring Clean' which ran between the 17 March and 2 April. The scheme provided information on how to carry out safe litter picks and lent appropriate equipment to those who needed it. It is hoped that this will see more local volunteering of this type for the 'Big Help Out' to mark His Majesty the King's Coronation.

The Council has also installed six new community recycling banks across the district where residents can take food and drink cartons as well as other paper-based containers.

2. PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDERS (MINUTE NO 97)

The Cabinet, noted the consultation responses to the two proposed Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) in respect of the lighting of fires and BBQs in the open Forest, and the feeding and petting of Forest animals and approved the making of PSPO1 and PSPO2.

The Council and its partners have undertaken several years of work and collaboration on the development of the PSPOs, culminating in the results of the public consultation and the numerous responses that have been received.

Cabinet believes that the level of detail contained within the PSPOs will enable their successful implementation. Training will focus on the reasonable and proportionate action embodied by the four 'Es': Engage, Explain, Educate, and then Enforce. Cabinet agree that the measurement of success will be in the positive behavioural change across the District regarding the nature of the PSPOs and not in the number of fines issued.

Members agree that protection of the New Forest, its residents, its visitors and its wildlife is fundamental to the PSPOs and were pleased that the responses received in the public consultation reflected this.

The management of outdoor recreational space remains a corporate objective for Forestry England. The New Forest typifies the pressures that arise from this responsibility. Due to the collaborative work with the Council on this matter, Forestry England believe that there will be positive behavioural change to promote respect for the Forest.

The Cabinet expressed their thanks to the hard work and collaboration of Officers and their partners from Forestry England, the National Park Authority and Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue service.

3. HEALTH AND WELLBEING ACTION PLAN (MINUTE NO 98)

The Cabinet, having considered a report on the proposed Health and Wellbeing Action Plan, are recommending to Council that the Health and Wellbeing Action Plan is approved. The Council's Health and Wellbeing Action Plan has been created to support the outcomes identified in the "Strategy for the Health and Wellbeing of Hampshire" where they align with the Council's priorities. The Action Plan recommended to Council for approval deals with specific actions, including the development of programmes and initiatives to support the health and wellbeing of New Forest residents, with appropriate progress updates and timescales of delivery. Council is requested to update the plan regularly and review it annually by way of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

The Community, Partnerships and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Panel has supported the Action Plan, following consideration of it at the meeting in March 2023.

The Action Plan is a 'live document' and will incorporate all projects and partnership working toward meeting the three priorities of working in partnership, increasing physical activity and improving mental wellbeing.

Cabinet agrees that the measures contained within the Action Plan, alongside the other Council measures in place, will seek to reduce the health disparities across the District and will contribute to the improvement in health and wellbeing for all residents.

The Cabinet believes that the Plan's priorities will give a shared focus for the Council and partners to work together to reduce health inequalities and make a positive difference across the District, improving the quality of life of New Forest communities.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Health and Wellbeing Action Plan be approved by Council.

4. CONSTITUTION REFRESH 2023 (MINUTE NO 99)

The Cabinet, having considered the Constitution Refresh 2023 report and the proposed changes that appear as the link at appendix 1, is recommending to Council that the Constitution for New Forest District Council be adopted for implementation with effect from Friday 5 May 2023 and that authority be delegated to the Monitoring Officer, to make further minor editing changes, corrections and updates to the document prior to publication. The Cabinet also authorised the delegation of Executive functions as set out in the proposed Constitution.

The Cabinet is conscious of the Electoral Review of New Forest District Council and the subsequent changes to Councillor numbers and new Wards that this will generate from the May 2023 Local Elections. Cabinet Members acknowledge this significant programme of work to create and implement the supporting governance arrangements and understand that the Constitution Refresh 2023 will provide a platform for the new Council to move forward from May 2023. The updated format, based on the key components and all the necessary information required of a local authority Constitution, is made of seven constituent parts which will provide a clear governance framework to

facilitate effective and accountable decision making. Cabinet notes the clarity of the new Constitution and how it will enable a clear Key Policy framework.

Group Leaders were consulted on the scope of changes in 2022, ahead of receiving a full briefing on the proposed draft Constitution in March 2023. Non-aligned Members were also offered the opportunity for a briefing.

RECOMMENDED:

That Council:

1.
 - (a) ***Adopt the refreshed Constitution for New Forest District Council, for implementation with effect from Friday 5 May 2023; and***
 - (b) ***Delegate authority to the Monitoring Officer, to make further minor editing changes, corrections, and updates to the document prior to publication.***
2. ***Authorise the Delegation of Non-Executive functions as set out in the proposed Constitution.***

**COUNCILLOR J CLEARY
CHAIRMAN**