



New Forest
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council Meeting Agenda

21 February 2022



SUMMONS

To All Members of the Council

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the District Council to be held in Council Chamber - Appletree Court, Beaulieu Road, Lyndhurst, SO43 7PA on Monday, 21 February 2022, at 6.30 pm



Kate Ryan
Chief Executive

Appletree Court, Lyndhurst, Hampshire. SO43 7PA
www.newforest.gov.uk

This Agenda is also available on audio tape, in Braille, large print and digital format

Members of the public may watch this meeting live on the [Council's website](#).

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AGENDA

Apologies

1. MINUTES (Pages 5 - 14)

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2021 as a correct record.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

To note any declarations of interests made by members in connection with an agenda item. The nature of the interests must also be specified.

Members are asked to discuss any possible interests with Democratic Services prior to the meeting.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

4. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

5. REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE (Pages 15 - 18)

To consider the report of the Audit Committee dated 28 January 2022.

6. REPORT OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE (Pages 19 - 20)

To consider the report of the General Purposes and Licensing Committee dated 14 January 2022.

7. REPORTS OF THE CABINET (Pages 21 - 24)

To consider the reports of the Cabinet dated:-

- 2 February 2022; and
- 16 February 2022 (to follow).

8. QUESTIONS

Under Standing Order 22.

9. QUESTIONS TO PORTFOLIO HOLDERS UNDER STANDING ORDER 22A

To ask questions of Portfolio Holders. Questions received will be tabled at the meeting. (Members are reminded that questions must be submitted to the Chief Executive or to the Executive Head of Governance and Housing by not later than 12.00 noon on Friday 18 February 2022).

10. THE 2022/23 COUNCIL TAX (Pages 25 - 36)

11. ALLOCATION OF SEATS AND APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND PANELS (Pages 37 - 40)

12. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

Agenda Item 1

6 DECEMBER 2021

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the New Forest District Council held on Monday, 6 December 2021

* Cllr Derek Tipp (Chairman)

* Cllr Alan O'Sullivan (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors:

- * Alan Alvey
- * Diane Andrews
- * Ann Bellows
- * Sue Bennison
- Geoffrey Blunden
- * Hilary Brand
- * Alex Brunsdon
- Fran Carpenter
- * Louise Cerasoli
- Mark Clark
- * Steve Clarke
- * Jill Cleary
- * Anne Corbridge
- * Keith Craze
- * Kate Crisell
- Jack Davies
- * Steve Davies
- * Arthur Davis
- * Sandra Delemare
- * Philip Dowd
- Jan Duke
- * Barry Dunning
- Jacqui England
- Allan Glass
- Andrew Gossage
- * Michael Harris
- * David Harrison
- * David Hawkins

Councillors:

- * Edward Heron
- * Jeremy Heron
- * Alison Hoare
- * Maureen Holding
- Christine Hopkins
- * Mahmoud Kangarani
- * Joshua Kidd
- * Emma Lane
- * Martyn Levitt
- * Alexis McEvoy
- * Ian Murray
- Stephanie Osborne
- * Neville Penman
- * Caroline Rackham
- Alvin Reid
- * Joe Reilly
- * Barry Rickman
- * Tony Ring
- * Steve Rippon-Swaine
- David Russell
- * Ann Sevier
- * Michael Thierry
- * Beverley Thorne
- * Neil Tungate
- * Alex Wade
- * Malcolm Wade
- * Christine Ward
- * John Ward

*Present

Officers Attending:

Kate Ryan, Colin Read, Grainne O'Rourke and Matt Wisdom.

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Blunden, Carpenter, Clark, J Davies, Duke, England, Glass, Gossage, Hopkins, Osborne and Reid.

51 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 2021, be confirmed.

52 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of any disclosable pecuniary interests by Members.

53 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Les Puttock

The Chairman referred with great sadness to the recent passing of former councillor and Chairman, Les Puttock. Les represented the Ashurst, Copythorne South and Netley Marsh Ward from 2003 until he stood down in May 2019.

Les sat on many committees during his time with NFDC, including the Appeals Committee for the whole time he was a councillor, as well as serving on the General Purposes and Licensing Committee which he also chaired, the Leisure Review Panel and Planning Development Control Committee.

He represented the Council on various Outside Bodies, with a particular interest in road safety, serving on the New Forest Road Safety Council from 2007 to 2011, when it then became the Road Safety Council, which Les continued to serve on until he stood down in 2019.

Most notably, Les was the Council's Vice Chairman for the year 2008/09 and the Chairman of the Council for 2009/10.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Council, expressed his sincere condolences to Les' family and friends, and placed on record the Council's thanks for the eminent service Les had given to the District.

Other Members of the Council paid tribute to Les.

Engagements

The Chairman reported on the following recent engagements:-

14 November 2021

Represented the District at the Remembrance Sunday commemorations, along with the Deputy Lieutenant and the Leader of the Council at the service, parade and wreath laying in Lyndhurst.

15 November 2021

Attended the AGM for New Forest Mencap, as Honorary President.

16 November 2021

Attended the laying up of the old colours for the 1st Battalion of The Princess of Wales Regiment, held at Winchester Cathedral.

19 November 2021

Attended the Beaulieu Estate Dinner, at the invitation of Lord and Lady Montagu.

2 December 2021

Attended the New Forest Brilliance in Business Awards, at Brockenhurst College.

28 November 2021

The Vice-Chairman attended the Annual Civic Service at the Priory Church of St Mary the Virgin, Havant, hosted by the Mayor and Consort of Havant.

Kate Ryan

The Chairman, along with Council Members, formally welcomed the Council's new Chief Executive, Kate Ryan, to her first Full Council meeting.

54 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Solent Freeport

The Leader was pleased to report that the Freeport Board had submitted its outline business case plus on Friday 26 November 2021. The business case was now being evaluated by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and HM Treasury. The Council was hopeful that notification of approval would take place during the first week of January. Once approval had been given, the full business case would need to be developed and the Council would have a key role to play in its preparation and approval for submission in March 2022.

Arts Council England

Members welcomed the news that, working with partners Energise Me, Folio, The Handy Trust and the National Park, the District had been awarded between £750k and £1m over the next 3 years from Arts Council England's Creative People and Places fund for the Culture in Common initiative. This would help to develop a thriving community driven arts scene that connected and celebrated the disparate communities of the New Forest District. The programme would learn from, inspire and enable communities to enjoy, commission and create their own artistic opportunities. Culture in Common's vision is to spark cultural engagement across the District through a sustainable and inclusive cultural offer led by the people who live there.

In addition, the Leader was pleased to announce that an agreement in principal from Arts Council England had been reached to joint fund an officer on a fixed term project, as a result of being identified as a Priority Place. This role would help the Council to identify opportunities to build on the great work that the Arts and Cultural communities were delivering across district.

Colin Read

The Leader referred to Colin Read, the Interim Chief Executive, who was attending his final Council meeting.

Members of the Council paid tribute to Colin for the way he had skilfully guided the Council through the last few months ahead of the start date of the new Chief Executive.

In recognition of Colin's service to the Council over many years, the Leader of the Council and Leader of the Opposition confirmed that Colin's name would be added to the board in the main stairway of Appletree Court, alongside previous Chief Executives.

55 REPORTS OF THE CABINET

The Leader of the Council first presented the report of the Cabinet meeting held on 3 November 2021 and moved that it be received. Cllr Cleary seconded the motion.

Paragraph 4 – Appointments to Outside Body – New Forest National Park Authority

Members of the Council acknowledged and wished to record their thanks for the significant work and contribution of Cllr Rickman on the National Park of Authority over a number of years. It was noted that Cllr Rickman had been a key member of the Planning Committee and an active Member supportive of the partnership plan.

The Leader of the Council then presented the report of the Cabinet meeting held on 1 December 2021 and moved the adoption of the recommendations. Cllr Cleary seconded the motion.

Paragraph 1 – Medium Term Financial Plan

In response to a question on the cost of parking clocks, the Leader of the Council confirmed that fees and charges would continue to be set in the normal way, although it was anticipated that the change in the clock prices for 2022 should be sufficient to cover the increased costs of operating the new virtual scheme.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and the recommendations be adopted.

56 REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

Cllr O'Sullivan presented the report of the Audit Committee meeting held on 29 October 2021 and moved the adoption of the recommendations. Cllr Lane seconded the motion.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and the recommendations be adopted.

57 REPORT OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

Cllr Clarke presented the report of the General Purposes and Licensing Committee meeting held on 22 November 2021 and moved the adoption of the recommendations. Cllr Tungate seconded the motion.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and the recommendations be adopted.

58 REPORT OF THE HR COMMITTEE

The Leader of the Council presented the report of the HR Committee meeting held on 23 November 2021. Cllr Harris seconded the motion.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and the recommendations be adopted.

59 QUESTIONS

There were none.

60 QUESTIONS TO PORTFOLIO HOLDERS UNDER STANDING ORDER 22A

Questions were put and answered under Standing Order 22A as follows:-

- Cllr Rackham to the Portfolio Holder for Partnering and Wellbeing, Cllr Blunden on crime figures.
- Cllr A Wade to the Portfolio Holder for Business, Tourism and High Streets, Cllr Harris, on support to businesses.
- Cllr Craze to the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Regeneration and Infrastructure, Cllr Andrews, on the introduction of a PSPO on the open Forest.
- Cllr Hawkins to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Coastal Services, Cllr S Davies, on Milford on Sea works.
- Cllr Tungate to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Coastal Services, Cllr S Davies, on Hurst Castle restoration.
- Cllr Lane to the Leader of the Council, Cllr E Heron, on progress with support to the campaign for the introduction of an Average Speed Camera system on the B3078 Roger Penny Way.

Note – a copy of the full questions and replies are attached to these minutes.

61 REVIEW AND ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO COMMITTEES AND PANELS

The Leader of the Council moved the adoption of the recommendations contained within the report, which included a reduction in the size of the Council's Planning Committee from 20 to 16, a change in the quorum rules for the Cabinet, Committees and Panels, and the necessary appointments to Committees and Panels in accordance with the principles as set out in Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. Cllr Cleary seconded the motion.

The Council, having received both the wishes of the political groups and the preferences of the non-aligned Members, considered the option to allocate seats to the non-aligned Members as nearly as possible in proportion to the number of those Members on the Council.

The Chairman confirmed that he would take any debate and a vote on recommendation 1.1 first, that the number of seats on the Planning Committee be reduced from 20 to 16. Some Members spoke against the proposal and highlighted that the wide representation across the District that 20 councillors provided was an important factor, alongside the responsibility of councillors to manage their attendance. Those speaking in support of the recommendations cited the Local Government Association Planning Advisory Service (PAS) recommendations, and that a third of the Council sitting on the Committee was not sustainable, particularly given the National Park Authority's role as the Planning Authority for a significant geographical area in the District. This recommendation was put to a vote and carried.

The Chairman then invited debate on the proposal to change the Council's quorum rules as outlined in paragraph 2.3 of the report. Some Members spoke against the proposal, citing the possibility of some meetings taking place with no more than three Members. It was noted that this was the minimum allowed under the proposed quorum rules for Committees and Panels that had fewer than 12 seats. The principle of a quarter of the membership applied for Committees and Panels with 12 or more seats, consistent with the quorum rules for Council meetings. Some Members speaking in support of the recommendations argued that attendance was a matter for each individual Member to be held accountable for. This recommendation was put to a vote and carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That the number of seats on the Planning Committee be reduced from 20 to 16;
2. That the Council's Standing Orders relating to quorum be amended as outlined at paragraph 2.3 of the report;
3. That the allocation of seats to committees and panels in accordance with the principles set out in the report, be agreed as at the table at paragraph 4.6 of the report;
4. That the Council gives effect to the wishes of the political groups in making appointments to these Committees and Panels, for the remainder of the four year period ending May 2023;
5. That the effective date of the decisions above be 1 January 2022; and
6. That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to make the consequential changes to the Constitution arising from the above.

CHAIRMAN

FULL COUNCIL – 6 DECEMBER 2021 – QUESTIONS TO PORTFOLIO HOLDERS UNDER STANDING ORDER 22A

First Questions

Question 1

From Cllr Caroline Rackham to the Portfolio Holder for Partnering and Wellbeing, Cllr Geoffrey Blunden

In our area, violence without injury has risen by 419 incidents or 20%, theft from vehicles up by 158 incidents and rape increased by 32 incidents. These are appalling statistics made even worse by the fact that this period covers part of the two major lockdowns.

I wonder if the portfolio holder can explain exactly what is being done to stop local crime figures rising even further than they have over the past year and support our police to do their job properly?

Answer:

The Prevention and Detection of Crime within the District is primarily the responsibility of the Constabulary and I am pleased that Donna Jones, the Hampshire and the Isle of Wight's Police & Crime Commissioner has pledged an additional 600 uniformed Officers by 2023.

Through the Safer New Forest Strategy and Delivery Group, the Council brings together key partner agencies, including the Police, Probation, Adult Services, Hampshire Fire and Rescue and Health services. Members of these organisations recognise the importance of working together in a co-ordinated manner, utilising resources to focus on both prevention, education and post-conviction interventions.

To obtain a greater understanding of emerging trends and vulnerabilities, the Council's Community Safety Team compiles an annual strategic assessment of crime and disorder in our area using data provided by our partners, which is published on the Safer New Forest Website. The crime data referred to within the 2020 assessment is captured from the period of April 1st 2019 until March 31st 2020 and therefore covers only 5 days of the first lockdown.

The 2020 assessment formulated the annual priorities which are published within the Partnership Plan of 2021 and cover 4 high level priorities:

- *Children at Risk*
- *Drug & Alcohol Related Harm*
- *Domestic Abuse*
- *Prevention of Risk & Exploitation of Vulnerable People*

The published Partnership Plan outlines the targeted work, activities and progress being undertaken by the Council and our partners in addressing these priorities. Each priority has a designated lead agency from within the strategic partnership who oversees the delivery of the action plan.

It is through the combined effort of the Safer New Forest partners that we are able to drive and effect change with responsible bodies and authorities, providing additional resources and support. It is with this combined and shared responsibility that we will continue to endeavour to make the New Forest a safe place to live, work and visit.

Notes – in response to a supplementary question on supporting the police with more staff in the Safer Communities team, it was highlighted that the Council provides significant support to crime prevention agencies through CCTV, working with partners to analyse trends and also working with communities to understand their priorities. The Leader of the Council answered this question in the absence of the Portfolio Holder for Partnering and Wellbeing, Cllr Blunden.

Question 2

From Cllr Alex Wade to the Portfolio Holder for Business, Tourism and High Streets, Cllr Michael Harris

Our own colleagues employed by the council, have worked very differently over the pandemic and of course are considering how best to work moving forward as are businesses right across the New Forest District. Could the portfolio holder please explain what is being done to support businesses in the area to adjust to working practices at this difficult time.

Answer:

The Council has given businesses across the district direct support through the awards of grants through ARG and the New Forest Rural Resilience and Rural SME Grant scheme. The Council has allocated £37.5 million in grants to over 2,500 recipient businesses. We continue to communicate with over 3,600 businesses each week through the business enews. This includes raising awareness of specific initiatives, training and support offered by partner organisations including Solent LEP which will include advice and support on different ways of working for those businesses that are needing support in this area. The benefits of this work have been noted by the LEP and they have reported high levels of up-take of these initiatives from New Forest businesses. Of course, most businesses have direct access to their own advisors, such as accountants, solicitors, bank managers, financial advisors and consultants to name but a few. Returning to my point about the 3,600 businesses who subscribe to our free weekly business enews. This does leave 4,400 businesses in the District who have not yet signed up for this valuable service. I would therefore take this opportunity to encourage them to visit the NFDC website and ensure that they hear about all business news, grants and information in the most effective and timely way. I thank Cllr Wade for providing me with the opportunity to publicise this valuable and yet free of charge service for New Forest businesses.

Question 3

From Cllr Keith Craze to the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Regeneration and Infrastructure, Cllr Diane Andrews

I understand that the Council has received a request from the New Forest Recreation Management Steering Group to consider the introduction of a PSPO to help tackle the feeding of livestock, lighting of fires and BBQ's and out of control dogs on the open Forest, what steps has the Portfolio Holder taken to consider this request?

Answer:

The Council has received a request from the New Forest Recreation Management Steering Group to consider the introduction of a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO). Initial investigations have taken to establish how these Orders are being used elsewhere. There have been a number of discussions with other Councils who are using these powers. Officers are working closely with Forestry England and there are on going discussions to agree if PSPOs are made how they would be monitored and enforced. It is critical that there

is a full understand of the resources needed to manage any PSPOs and a full understanding of the measures that need to be in place once a PSPO is served. The PSPO can be enforced by the Police, Council enforcement officers, or any other authorised officers. Without adequate resources to enforce an Order will not achieve the outcome that the RMS has identified.

The Council will continue to work closely with Forestry England to progress this work. I have set up a Member Panel so that progress on what is a complex project can be reported back on a regular basis. I am sure Councillor Craze that you and the rest of the Council will be hearing more from me on this matter over the coming months as the work progresses. I am pleased with the progress that has been made to date and confident that through strong partnership working we will reduce the impact the unwanted behaviour is having on the environment of the district.

Note – in response to supplementary question on responsible off lead dog walking, it was confirmed that any potential PSPO would only target those who were not in control of their dogs and it would not seek to prevent off lead dog walking.

Question 4

From Cllr David Hawkins to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Coastal Services, Cllr Steve Davies

There is a significant amount of work being carried out on the Milford On Sea front again. Is this more emergency work and can you please inform me who is paying this bill?

Answer:

The work currently being undertaken at Milford-on-Sea is maintenance of the timber groynes. This is being undertaken as part of the annual planned maintenance programme on our coastal defence assets.

It is not emergency works and is being funded through the Council's coastal maintenance budget.

A point of interest is that the timbers being used were excess to requirements at BCP who offered them to us free of charge. I like to think of this as an excellent example of collaboration between Christchurch Bay Strategy partners.

Question 5

From Cllr Neil Tungate to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Coastal Services, Cllr Steve Davies

We are aware the Hurst Castle is undergoing some significant restoration. Can you explain when the work will be completed and will it endure further extreme weather and rising sea levels?

Answer:

The work being carried out to the Castle defences is being led by English Heritage. The Council does not have full oversight of their work programme, but is aware of the next phase of their planned works which will commence in the near future. This will involve importing further shingle and rebuilding of the temporary rock structure around the east wing. I'm not in a position to comment on the long-term viability of the defence works.

I will add that the coastal officers were invited to visit the site and viewed the resin injection process being used to stabilise the foundations. I'm no civil engineer, but perhaps this 21st century solution might offer protection at other historic sites?

In considering the wider strategic approach to the future management of this area the Council is engaging with English Heritage and others who own land at Hurst Spit to consider options for future management of this area. Any works will be designed taking into account the impact of climate change. Hurst Spit itself is being considered across both coastal strategies currently in progress across our coastal frontage – these are the Christchurch Bay Strategy and the Hurst to Lymington Strategy.

Question 6

From Cllr Emma Lane to the Leader of the Council, Cllr Edward Heron

Following the decision of Council on the 11th October to support the campaign for the introduction of an Average Speed Camera system on the B3078 Roger Penny Way, can the Leader provide an update on what steps have been taken to progress this important issue?

Answer:

Following the October Council meeting I wrote to the Official Verderer, Police & Crime Commissioner and Leader of the County Council requesting a meeting to agree how this may be progressed. This has now been arranged to take place in January and will include representatives of the National Park Authority, Forestry England and Natural England.

This meeting will bring together senior representatives of all the statutory organisations required to deliver an Average Speed Camera system, Police, Highways Authority, landowner, planning and regulatory. I am confident that this will be a significant step forward in tackling the high number of animal casualties on this road.

I would just take this opportunity to express my thanks to the Police for 'Operation Mountie'. Working with partners, including this Council, last week this operation on the B3078 saw the Camera Van catch 53 drivers exceeding the speed limit, including one caught overtaking at over 50mph. In addition one car was seized for being driven without a valid licence and another driver reported for having no insurance. 10 other drivers were spoken to and educated on the importance of staying under the speed limit within the Forest.

REPORT OF AUDIT COMMITTEE

[\(Meeting held on 28 January 2022\)](#)

1. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2022/23 (MINUTE NO 41)

The Committee has considered the Council's Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2022/23 to 2024/25, including the Annual Treasury Management Investment Strategy (and the remainder for 2021/22) and Treasury Indicators for the same period.

Following detailed consideration by the Committee, the policies and approvals sought are:

Treasury Management Strategy Statement

The Treasury Management Strategy Statement sets out how the Council's treasury service will support the capital expenditure and financing decisions taken over the three year period from 2022/23 to 2024/25. The day to day treasury management function and the limitations on activity through treasury indicators are also set out in the statement.

The report had been prepared prior to the adoption of the Capital Programme for 2022/23 and subsequent years. Therefore, the target indicators may be subject to minor variation. These indicators are targets only and minor adjustments will not be reported.

Any adjustments to the treasury management limits will be reported.

Treasury Management Investment Strategy

Treasury risk management at the Council is conducted within the framework of the CIPFA Treasury Management in Public Services: Code of Practice 2017 Edition (the CIPFA Code). The report fulfils the Council's legal obligation under the Local Government Act 2003 to have regard to the CIPFA Code. The Treasury Management Investment Strategy sets out the Council's criteria for choosing investment counterparties and limiting exposure to the risk of loss.

This Strategy is shown in section 5 of Annex A to Committee Report 13.

The above policies and parameters provide an approved framework within which officers undertake the day to day treasury activities.

This Strategy aims to strike a balance between allowing for current investment levels to continue, whilst also considering the Council's intention to directly invest in both commercial and residential property.

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) ***That the Treasury Management Strategy 2022/23 to 2024/25 including the Annual Treasury Management Investment Strategy for 2022/23 (and the remainder for 2021/22) and the Treasury Indicators contained within Annex A to Report 13, be approved.***

- (b) ***That authority be delegated to the Section 151 Officer, who in turn delegates to Hampshire County Council's Director of Corporate Operations, as agreed in the Service Level Agreement, to manage all Council investments (other than the high yield investment portfolio) and borrowing according to the Treasury Management Strategy Statement as appropriate.***

2. INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2022/23 (Minute No 42)

The Committee also considered the Investment Strategy for 2022/23, which the Council must produce to comply with statutory guidance.

The Investment Strategy incorporates all of the Council's investment activities, which consist of:

- **Treasury Management Investments** (see Item 1 above)
- **Commercial Investments**

The Commercial investments section of the strategy combines properties which have been in NFDC ownership for several years, as well as the accumulation of property investment strategies that have been adopted more recently by this Council.

Although the primary purpose of these adopted strategies is to support the economic sustainability and regeneration within the District and provide additional housing to support New Forest residents and communities, the strategies also generate a revenue return, hence being prevalent to this investment strategy. The strategy considers the contribution made by these investments, the security, the risk assessment process and liquidity.

The strategy sets out various performance indicators, designed to assist readers understand the implications of the Council's investing activities on the general fund, and the forecast yields expected from the differing investment categories.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Investment Strategy for 2022/23, as set out in Appendix 1 of Audit Committee Report 14 of the Audit Committee agenda, be approved.

3. AUDITOR APPOINTMENT 2023/24 – 2027/28 (Minute No 43)

The Committee has considered proposals for appointing an external auditor to the Council for the accounts for the five-year period from 2023/24.

Under the Local Government Audit & Accountability Act 2014 ("the Act"), the council is required to appoint an auditor to audit its accounts for each financial year. The Council has three options;

- To appoint its own auditor, which requires it to follow the procedure set out in the Act.
- To act jointly with other authorities to procure an auditor following the procedures in the Act.
- To opt in to the national auditor appointment scheme administered by a body designated by the Secretary of State as the 'appointing person'. The body currently designated for this role is Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited (PSAA).

The current auditor appointment arrangements cover the period up to and including the audit of the 2022/23 accounts. The Council opted into the 'appointing person' national auditor appointment arrangements established by Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) for the period covering the accounts for 2018/19 to 2022/23.

The Committee noted the PSAA conclusion that its the sector-wide procurement will produce better outcomes and will be less burdensome for the Council than a procurement undertaken locally because

- collective procurement reduces costs for the sector and for individual authorities compared to a multiplicity of smaller local procurements;
- if it does not use the national appointment arrangements, the Council will need to establish its own auditor panel with an independent chair and independent members to oversee a local auditor procurement and ongoing management of an audit contract; page 295 of agenda Item 15
- it is the best opportunity to secure the appointment of a qualified, registered auditor - there are only nine accredited local audit firms, and a local procurement would be drawing from the same limited supply of auditor resources as PSAA's national procurement; and
- supporting the sector-led body offers the best way of to ensuring there is a continuing and sustainable public audit market into the medium and long term.

If the Council wishes to utilise the national auditor appointment arrangements, it is required under the local audit regulations to make the decision at full Council. The opt in period has started and closes on 11 March 2022. To opt into the national scheme from 2023/24, the Council needs to return completed opt-in documents to PSAA by 11 March 2022.

The Committee noted that in recent years, 98% of councils used the PSAA process, and if this national procurement method was not used, the Council may have to adopt an onerous range of new processes and arrangements, which was not felt desirable.

It also noted the fundamental changes expected to emerge from recent reviews, which it was hoped would address national concerns over delays in issuing opinions, and on the level of fees.

RECOMMENDED:

- That the Council accepts Public Sector Audit Appointment's invitation to opt into the sector-led option for the appointment of external auditors to principal local government and police bodies for five financial years from 1 April 2023.***
- That following Council approval, the Council's Section 151 Officer return the necessary invitation acceptance forms in line with the deadline of the 11 March 2022.***

**CLLR A ALVEY
CHAIRMAN**

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REPORT OF GENERAL PURPOSES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

(Meeting held on 14 January 2022)

1. FEES AND CHARGES FOR 2022-2023 - LICENSING SERVICE (MINUTE NO 22)

As part of the annual review of budgets, the Committee has reviewed non-statutory fees and charges for the Licensing Service for 2022/2023.

The Council has a statutory responsibility for the administration and enforcement of a wide range of licences, registrations and permits. Many of these schemes allow the Council to charge a fee, payable by an applicant for a licence, permit or registration, in order to cover the costs of the administration of those licence types.

Fees are set under the Licensing Act 2003 and the Gambling Act 2005 and the Council has no discretion in amending these. Gambling premises licence fees are capped and permit and lottery fees are fixed amounts. The fee regimes for both have not been revised since the implementation of both Acts in 2005 and 2007 respectively. However, the Council is able to set fees for a number of other licence types; Taxis (drivers, vehicles and operators), Animal Welfare (boarding breeding, riding and pet shops), Piercing (tattoo, acupuncture and skin piercing) and Pleasure boats (boatmen and vessels), residential caravan sites and scrap metal dealers (site and collectors).

The Committee noted that the Coronavirus 19 pandemic had a significant impact on the economy and businesses in the New Forest, having been affected by a reduction in trade and loss of income. Whilst the Licensing Service was unable to provide refunds or reductions in fees over this time, it had worked with the businesses to assist them in continuing to operate as far as possible, and the Council had administered with government grants. There are no proposed changes to the taxi and private hire fees at this current time due to a comprehensive review taking place of the taxi licensing policy in 2022, taking into account new statutory guidance, the fee structure, public safety and best practice and will be consulted on with Members, the trade, the public and all other relevant organisations.

In order to support the continuation of those businesses who had struggled financially in 2021/22, the Committee recommended, and the Council agreed, to not raise licensing fees for 2021/22. It is now proposed that Discretionary fees be increased in line with inflation, to take effect from 1 April 2022.

Any financial implications have been reported for budgetary control and as part of the financial plan.

RECOMMENDED:

That the recommended fees for the financial year 2022/23 as set out in Appendix A to General Purposes and Licensing Committee item 4 of the Committee agenda, be agreed.

CLLR S J CLARKE

CHAIRMAN

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REPORT OF CABINET

(Meeting held on 2 February 2022)

1. FINANCIAL MONITORING (MINUTE NO 55)

The Cabinet noted the latest budget forecasts of the General Fund, Capital and Housing Revenue Account (HRA), set out in full in paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 of Cabinet Report 4 of the Cabinet Agenda.

The Cabinet is pleased to see that nine months into the year, despite variations across services, the Council remains on track to deliver a General Fund budget close to that initially set.

It is clear that the HRA has faced some pressures this year resulting in additional expenditure and pressure on income, and these matters will be addressed in the proposed 2022/23 budget to mitigate against these variations occurring again into the new financial year.

2. AIR QUALITY SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT (MINUTE NO 56)

The Cabinet, having considered the feedback from both the Environment and Sustainability Overview and Scrutiny Panel and the Community, Partnerships and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Panel, approved the publication of a draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for consultation. The final draft document will be agreed by the Executive Head for Planning, Regeneration and the Economy in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Regeneration and Infrastructure.

The SPD sets out an approach to Air Quality in new development and was prepared jointly between Planning and Environmental Health. The draft SPD can be found at Appendix 1 to Cabinet Report 5 of the Cabinet Agenda.

The Cabinet are encouraged by this SPD as a way of ensuring that the developers within the District are clear about the information they need to submit to enable Council officers to fully assess the impact proposed development will have on air quality. It also clearly sets out infrastructure that can be put in place to reduce emissions and ensure that sustainable development is delivered in the District.

The Cabinet look forward to the outcome of the consultation.

3. SOLENT FREEPORT – SITE SPECIFIC AGREEMENTS (MINUTE NO 57)

The Cabinet authorised the Chief Executive to enter into Site Specific Agreements with landowners and the Solent Freeport Consortium. The terms of the agreements are set out in full in Cabinet Report 6 of the Cabinet Agenda.

The Cabinet heard from a number of Members who sought reassurances on both the economic and environmental implications of the Solent Freeport.

As stated within the Cabinet report, neither the entering into Site Specific Agreements nor the designation of the Freeport by the Government will alter the requirement for sites to obtain required planning consents before development can take place. By entering into these agreements the Council ensures that landowners, their successors and tenants, use their best endeavours to deliver development that meets the Freeport objectives, which includes promoting job creation and pioneering approaches to climate change adaptation and decarbonisation.

If designated, the Solent Freeport will deliver new jobs, and importantly access to the training and up-skilling required to enable local residents to access them, investment in needed infrastructure and commit site owners to work to achieve the Freeport objectives.

The Cabinet also welcomes the ambition of the Solent Freeport to become the UK's greenest Freeport, contributing to the Council's sustainability priorities.

4. COMMUNITY GRANTS 2022/23 (MINUTE NO 58)

The Cabinet, having considered the recommendations of the Community, Partnerships and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Panel, and the detailed work and considerations of the Community Grants Task and Finish Group, approved Community Grant awards totalling £130,000 in revenue grants and £85,600 in capital grants for inclusion in the Medium Term Financial Plan and proposed budget for 2022/23. The detailed awards are outlined in appendices 1 and 2 to Cabinet Report 7 of the Cabinet Agenda.

Further grant awards totalling £28,500 were approved from the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable funding held by the Council as part of the COVID-19 funding support received by the Government.

The Cabinet also approved a number of proposed changes to the process for 2023/24, as detailed in the Cabinet report. These include improvements to the application process and the opportunity to work with Community First Wessex to develop a Service Level Agreement.

The Cabinet would like to thank the Members involved in the process for recommending grant awards through a full and robust application and interview process, demonstrated in the diversity across the community of grants to be awarded in supporting the arts, families and young people, sports, mental health and to charities that support our most vulnerable households.

5. ASSET MAINTENANCE AND REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME AND GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2022/23 (MINUTE NO 59)

The Cabinet, having considered the discussions of the Corporate Affairs and Local Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel, agreed the schedule of projects as included at appendices 2 and 3 to Cabinet Report 8 of the Cabinet Agenda, for adoption by the Council.

The proposed Capital Programme for 2022/23 totals £16.674 million. Projects are funded by NFDC resources (capital reserve and receipts received), various grants / funds and Developer Contributions / CIL.

It is important as part of the Council's overall financial health that it continues to fund the maintenance and replacement of its assets.

RECOMMENDED:

That the schedule of projects, as included at Appendix 2 and 3 of Cabinet Report 8 of the Cabinet Agenda be approved within the 2022/23 budget.

6. CAPITAL STRATEGY 2022/23 (MINUTE NO 60)

The Cabinet, having considered the discussions and recommendations of the Corporate Affairs and Local Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel, agreed the Capital Strategy 2022/23, as outlined in Cabinet Report 9 of the Cabinet Agenda, including the MRP statement, for adoption by the Council.

The Capital Strategy is a high level document, giving an overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management come together, with an overview of current activities and the implications for future financial sustainability. By producing this strategy report, the Council is following statutory guidance issued by the Government in January 2018. Whilst this programme gives rise to a level of external borrowing from 2022/23, this is well within the prudent level supported by the Council's overall financial position.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Capital Strategy 2022/23 be approved, including the adoption of the MRP statement, as follows:-

“For capital expenditure that has been incurred, and which has given rise to a CFR, the MRP policy for expenditure other than that incurred on investment property and dwellings, shall be to charge revenue an amount equal to the depreciation of any asset financed by loan. The MRP policy specific to investment properties and dwellings financed by loan, shall be to charge revenue an amount equivalent to the sum of borrowing utilised, over a repayment period of 50 years.”

**COUNCILLOR E HERON
CHAIRMAN**

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COUNCIL – 21 FEBRUARY 2022

THE 2022/23 COUNCIL TAX

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council is recommended to resolve:

- 1.1 That it be noted that on 6 December 2021 the Council calculated the Council Tax Base for the year 2022/23:
 - (a) for the whole Council area as 72,122.10 [Item T in the formula in Section 31B(1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the “Act”)]; and
 - (b) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates as in the attached Appendix 3.
- 1.2 To calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council’s own purposes for 2022/23 (excluding Parish Precepts) is £13,584,920.
- 1.3 That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2022/23 in accordance with Sections 31A, 31B and 34 to 36 of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992 as amended by the Localism Act 2011: -
 - (a) £139,820,116 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.
 - (b) £119,248,060 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
 - (c) £20,572,056 being the amount by which the aggregate at 1.3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 1.3(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B(1) of the Act).
 - (d) £285.24 being the amount at 1.3(c) above (Item R), all divided by the Council Tax Base, Item T (1.1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).
 - (e) £6,987,136 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per the attached Appendix 4).

(f) £188.36 being the amount at 1.3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 1.3(e) above by Item T (1.1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year specifically for the District Council. There are no non-parished areas.

(g)

LOCAL COUNCIL AREA

	£
ASHURST & COLBURY	236.73
BEAULIEU	203.80
BOLDRE	215.79
BRAMSHAW	217.34
BRANSGORE	249.80
BREAMORE	218.58
BROCKENHURST	230.85
BURLEY	206.93
COPYTHORNE	208.49
DAMERHAM	229.98
DENNY LODGE	223.76
EAST BOLDRE	229.63
ELLINGHAM HARBRIDGE & IBSLEY	218.92
EXBURY & LEPE	188.36
FAWLEY	327.57
FORDINGBRIDGE	306.52
GODSHILL	239.19
HALE	239.84
HORDLE	238.43
HYDE	211.21
HYTHE & DIBDEN	309.28
LYMINGTON & PENNINGTON	301.75
LYNDHURST	259.95
MARCHWOOD	307.40
MARTIN	226.98
MILFORD-ON-SEA	238.93
MINSTEAD	220.47
NETLEY MARSH	213.42
NEW MILTON	300.03
RINGWOOD	289.72
ROCKBOURNE	268.94
SANDLEHEATH	218.27
SOPLEY	270.01
SWAY	238.30
TOTTON & ELING	329.20
WHITSBURY	210.16
WOODGREEN	226.74

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 1.3(f) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at 1.1(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

(h) These are the District plus Town/Parish Council elements only. See below and page 5 for the full amounts of Council Tax.

LOCAL COUNCIL AREA	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
ASHURST & COLBURY	157.82	184.12	210.42	236.73	289.34	341.95	394.55	473.46
BEAULIEU	135.86	158.51	181.15	203.80	249.09	294.39	339.66	407.60
BOLDRE	143.86	167.84	191.81	215.79	263.74	311.70	359.65	431.58
BRAMSHAW	144.89	169.04	193.19	217.34	265.64	313.94	362.23	434.68
BRANGSORE	166.53	194.29	222.04	249.80	305.31	360.83	416.33	499.60
BREAMORE	145.72	170.01	194.29	218.58	267.15	315.73	364.30	437.16
BROCKENHURST	153.90	179.55	205.20	230.85	282.15	333.46	384.75	461.70
BURLEY	137.95	160.95	183.93	206.93	252.91	298.91	344.88	413.86
COPYTHORNE	138.99	162.16	185.32	208.49	254.82	301.16	347.48	416.98
DAMERHAM	153.32	178.87	204.42	229.98	281.09	332.20	383.30	459.96
DENNY LODGE	149.17	174.04	198.89	223.76	273.48	323.22	372.93	447.52
EAST BOLDRE	153.08	178.60	204.11	229.63	280.66	331.70	382.71	459.26
ELLINGHAM HARBRIDGE & IBSLEY	145.94	170.27	194.59	218.92	267.57	316.23	364.86	437.84
EXBURY & LEPE	125.57	146.50	167.43	188.36	230.22	272.08	313.93	376.72
FAWLEY	218.38	254.78	291.17	327.57	400.36	473.16	545.95	655.14
FORDINGBRIDGE	204.34	238.41	272.46	306.52	374.63	442.76	510.86	613.04
GODSHILL	159.46	186.04	212.61	239.19	292.34	345.50	398.65	478.38
HALE	159.89	186.54	213.19	239.84	293.14	346.44	399.73	479.68
HORDLE	158.95	185.45	211.93	238.43	291.41	344.41	397.38	476.86
HYDE	140.80	164.28	187.74	211.21	258.14	305.09	352.01	422.42
HYTHE & DIBDEN	206.18	240.55	274.91	309.28	378.01	446.75	515.46	618.56
LYMINGTON & PENNINGTON	201.16	234.70	268.22	301.75	368.80	435.87	502.91	603.50
LYNDHURST	173.30	202.18	231.06	259.95	317.72	375.49	433.25	519.90
MARCHWOOD	204.93	239.09	273.24	307.40	375.71	444.03	512.33	614.80
MARTIN	151.32	176.54	201.76	226.98	277.42	327.87	378.30	453.96
MILFORD-ON-SEA	159.28	185.84	212.38	238.93	292.02	345.13	398.21	477.86
MINSTEAD	146.98	171.48	195.97	220.47	269.46	318.46	367.45	440.94
NETLEY MARSH	142.28	165.99	189.70	213.42	260.85	308.28	355.70	426.84
NEW MILTON	200.02	233.36	266.69	300.03	366.70	433.38	500.05	600.06

LOCAL COUNCIL AREA	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
RINGWOOD	193.14	225.34	257.52	289.72	354.10	418.49	482.86	579.44
ROCKBOURNE	179.29	209.18	239.05	268.94	328.70	388.48	448.23	537.88
SANDLEHEATH	145.51	169.77	194.01	218.27	266.77	315.29	363.78	436.54
SOPLEY	180.00	210.01	240.00	270.01	330.01	390.02	450.01	540.02
SWAY	158.86	185.35	211.82	238.30	291.25	344.22	397.16	476.60
TOTTON & ELING	219.46	256.05	292.62	329.20	402.35	475.52	548.66	658.40
WHITSBURY	140.10	163.46	186.80	210.16	256.86	303.57	350.26	420.32
WOODGREEN	151.16	176.35	201.54	226.74	277.13	327.52	377.90	453.48

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 1.3(g) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation Band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

- 1.4 That it be noted that Hampshire County Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire Authority have issued precepts for 2022/23 to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated below:

PRECEPTING AUTHORITY

PRECEPTING AUTHORITY	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL	927.24	1,081.78	1,236.32	1,390.86	1,699.94	2,009.02	2,318.10	2,781.72
POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR HAMPSHIRE AUTHORITY	157.64	183.91	210.19	236.46	289.01	341.55	394.10	472.92
HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT FIRE AUTHORITY	50.29	58.67	67.05	75.43	92.19	108.95	125.72	150.86
	1,135.17	1,324.36	1,513.56	1,702.75	2,081.14	2,459.52	2,837.92	3,405.50

- 1.5 That the Section 151 Officer be given delegated authority to implement any variation to the overall level of Council Tax arising from the final notification of the Hampshire County Council and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue precepts.

- 1.6 That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 1.3(h) and 1.4 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011), hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2022/23 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings shown on the next page:-

LOCAL COUNCIL AREA	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
ASHURST & COLBURY	1,292.99	1,508.48	1,723.98	1,939.48	2,370.48	2,801.47	3,232.47	3,878.96
BEAULIEU	1,271.03	1,482.87	1,694.71	1,906.55	2,330.23	2,753.91	3,177.58	3,813.10
BOLDRE	1,279.03	1,492.20	1,705.37	1,918.54	2,344.88	2,771.22	3,197.57	3,837.08
BRAMSHAW	1,280.06	1,493.40	1,706.75	1,920.09	2,346.78	2,773.46	3,200.15	3,840.18
BRANSGORE	1,301.70	1,518.65	1,735.60	1,952.55	2,386.45	2,820.35	3,254.25	3,905.10
BREAMORE	1,280.89	1,494.37	1,707.85	1,921.33	2,348.29	2,775.25	3,202.22	3,842.66
BROCKENHURST	1,289.07	1,503.91	1,718.76	1,933.60	2,363.29	2,792.98	3,222.67	3,867.20
BURLEY	1,273.12	1,485.31	1,697.49	1,909.68	2,334.05	2,758.43	3,182.80	3,819.36
COPYTHORNE	1,274.16	1,486.52	1,698.88	1,911.24	2,335.96	2,760.68	3,185.40	3,822.48
DAMERHAM	1,288.49	1,503.23	1,717.98	1,932.73	2,362.23	2,791.72	3,221.22	3,865.46
DENNY LODGE	1,284.34	1,498.40	1,712.45	1,926.51	2,354.62	2,782.74	3,210.85	3,853.02
EAST BOLDRE	1,288.25	1,502.96	1,717.67	1,932.38	2,361.80	2,791.22	3,220.63	3,864.76
ELLINGHAM HARBRIDGE & IBSLEY	1,281.11	1,494.63	1,708.15	1,921.67	2,348.71	2,775.75	3,202.78	3,843.34
EXBURY & LEPE	1,260.74	1,470.86	1,680.99	1,891.11	2,311.36	2,731.60	3,151.85	3,782.22
FAWLEY	1,353.55	1,579.14	1,804.73	2,030.32	2,481.50	2,932.68	3,383.87	4,060.64
FORDINGBRIDGE	1,339.51	1,562.77	1,786.02	2,009.27	2,455.77	2,902.28	3,348.78	4,018.54
GODSHILL	1,294.63	1,510.40	1,726.17	1,941.94	2,373.48	2,805.02	3,236.57	3,883.88
HALE	1,295.06	1,510.90	1,726.75	1,942.59	2,374.28	2,805.96	3,237.65	3,885.18
HORDLE	1,294.12	1,509.81	1,725.49	1,941.18	2,372.55	2,803.93	3,235.30	3,882.36
HYDE	1,275.97	1,488.64	1,701.30	1,913.96	2,339.28	2,764.61	3,189.93	3,827.92
HYTHE & DIBDEN	1,341.35	1,564.91	1,788.47	2,012.03	2,459.15	2,906.27	3,353.38	4,024.06
LYMINGTON & PENNINGTON	1,336.33	1,559.06	1,781.78	2,004.50	2,449.94	2,895.39	3,340.83	4,009.00
LYNDHURST	1,308.47	1,526.54	1,744.62	1,962.70	2,398.86	2,835.01	3,271.17	3,925.40
MARCHWOOD	1,340.10	1,563.45	1,786.80	2,010.15	2,456.85	2,903.55	3,350.25	4,020.30
MARTIN	1,286.49	1,500.90	1,715.32	1,929.73	2,358.56	2,787.39	3,216.22	3,859.46
MILFORD-ON-SEA	1,294.45	1,510.20	1,725.94	1,941.68	2,373.16	2,804.65	3,236.13	3,883.36
MINSTEAD	1,282.15	1,495.84	1,709.53	1,923.22	2,350.60	2,777.98	3,205.37	3,846.44
NETLEY MARSH	1,277.45	1,490.35	1,703.26	1,916.17	2,341.99	2,767.80	3,193.62	3,832.34
NEW MILTON	1,335.19	1,557.72	1,780.25	2,002.78	2,447.84	2,892.90	3,337.97	4,005.56
RINGWOOD	1,328.31	1,549.70	1,771.08	1,992.47	2,435.24	2,878.01	3,320.78	3,984.94
ROCKBOURNE	1,314.46	1,533.54	1,752.61	1,971.69	2,409.84	2,848.00	3,286.15	3,943.38
SANDLEHEATH	1,280.68	1,494.13	1,707.57	1,921.02	2,347.91	2,774.81	3,201.70	3,842.04
SOPLEY	1,315.17	1,534.37	1,753.56	1,972.76	2,411.15	2,849.54	3,287.93	3,945.52
SWAY	1,294.03	1,509.71	1,725.38	1,941.05	2,372.39	2,803.74	3,235.08	3,882.10
TOTTON & ELING	1,354.63	1,580.41	1,806.18	2,031.95	2,483.49	2,935.04	3,386.58	4,063.90
WHITSBURY	1,275.27	1,487.82	1,700.36	1,912.91	2,338.00	2,763.09	3,188.18	3,825.82
WOODGREEN	1,286.33	1,500.71	1,715.10	1,929.49	2,358.27	2,787.04	3,215.82	3,858.98

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Members are required to calculate and set the Council Tax for 2022/23.
- 2.2 The level of tax is determined by the spending needs of this Council, Hampshire County Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire Authority and the Town and Parish Councils. Although the District Council has no control over the expenditure of the other organisations, it

has to ensure that the Council Tax is set at the right level to meet the combined budgets.

2.3 Members will have considered earlier in this agenda the recommended General Fund revenue budget for 2022/23, which is outlined in Section 4 below. Any changes made at that stage could change the Council Tax figures shown in this report.

2.4 The recommended Council Tax for every District Council area is shown in paragraph 1.6 of this report.

2.5 Appendix 1 attached to this report supplements the prescribed layout of the recommendations by showing how the figures used in paragraph 1.3 have been arrived at.

3. THE 2022/23 COUNCIL TAX BILL

3.1 This report recommends a Council Tax level of £1,987.99 for 2022/23. This is an average figure based on a band 'D' property and is an increase of £64.09 (3.33%) over the equivalent figure for 2021/22.

3.2 Each dwelling falls into one of eight valuation bands (A to H) for tax purposes. More details are given in Appendix 2.

3.3 The tax level is based upon the 2022/23 budgets of all precepting authorities in this area. The District, County Council, Police and Crime Commissioner and Fire Authority elements of the total tax bill are the same throughout the area but the Town/Parish Councils each determine their own tax levels. There are 8 bands of Council Tax for each of the 37 Town/Parish areas, giving 296 separate tax figures.

3.4 If the recommendations in this report are accepted there will be a range of Band D Council Tax levies from £1,891.11 to £2,031.95. The average figures are as follows :-

	2021/22	2022/23	INCREASE	
	AVERAGE £	AVERAGE £	£	%
New Forest District Council	183.36	188.36	5.00	2.73
Hampshire County Council	1,350.45	1,390.86	40.41	2.99
Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire	226.46	236.46	10.00	4.42
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire Authority	70.43	75.43	5.00	7.10
	1,830.70	1,891.11	60.41	3.30
Parish/Town Councils	93.20	96.88	3.68	3.95
	1,923.90	1,987.99	64.09	3.33

- 3.5 The proposed 2022/23 Council Tax for all areas is shown in paragraph 1.6 of this report.
- 3.6 There is a discount of 25% where only one adult lives in a dwelling, reductions for disabled persons whose homes have certain facilities, and a Council Tax Reduction scheme for persons with low incomes.
- 3.7 Council Tax bills can be payable by instalments from 1 April. The date of the first instalment only may have to be delayed slightly to ensure that there is a statutory period of 14 days between the date the bills are issued and the date the first payment becomes due.
- 3.8 More detailed information on the Council Tax, including a summary of how it is spent is available on our website: www.newforest.gov.uk/counciltax.

4. NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

- 4.1 The proposed 2022/23 General Fund budget requirement, elsewhere on this agenda, totals £20,674,420. After deducting retained Business Rates, Government support and collection fund adjustments of £7,089,500, the District Council needs to raise £13,584,920 through Council Tax. This would require a District Council Tax of £188.36 for a Band D property, which means there is an increase of £5.00 (2.73%) over the equivalent figure for 2021/22.

5. HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

- 5.1 Hampshire County Council met on the 17 February 2022 and set its precept upon this Council at £100,311,744. This results in a Band D Council Tax of £1,390.86, which represents an increase of £40.41 (2.99%) over the equivalent 2021/22 figure.

6. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR HAMPSHIRE AUTHORITY

- 6.1 The Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire set a precept of £17,053,992 upon this Council. This results in a Band D Council Tax of £236.46, which represents an increase of £10.00 (4.42%) over the equivalent 2021/22 figure.

7. HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT FIRE AUTHORITY

- 7.1 Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire Authority met on the 15 February 2022 and set its precept upon this Council at £5,440,170. This results in a Band D Council Tax of £75.43, which represents an increase of £5.00 (7.10%) over the equivalent 2021/22 figure.

8. TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS

- # 8.1 The Town and Parish Council precepts (Council Tax Requirements) for 2022/23 are detailed in Appendix 3 and total £6,987,136. This is an increase of £319,984 from 2021/22 and results in an average Band D Council Tax for 2022/23 of £96.88, an increase of £3.68 (3.95%) from 2021/22.

9. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no crime and disorder implications arising directly from this report.

10. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no environmental implications arising directly from this report.

For Further Information:

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Background Papers

Published Documents

APPENDIX 1

SOURCE OF FIGURES SHOWN IN PARAGRAPH 1.3 OF THE REPORT

(a) (b) (c)

For the purposes of the recommendation, the estimated total net revenue expenditure of the Council for 2022/23 has to be shown i.e. including General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budgets and Town/Parish Council precepts: -

	Expenditure	Income	Council Tax Requirement
	£	£	£
General Fund	102,407,680	88,822,760	13,584,920
HRA	30,425,300	30,425,300	0
Town/Parish Precept	6,987,136	0	6,987,136
	<u>139,820,116</u>	<u>119,248,060</u>	<u>20,572,056</u>
	(a)	(b)	(c)

(d) This is the combined District Council and Town/Parish Council Tax at Band D: -

	£
District	188.36
Average Town/Parish	96.88
	<u>285.24</u>

(e) £6,987,136 is the total of the Town/Parish Council precepts as shown in Appendix 3.

(f) £188.36 is the District Council Tax at Band D. The sequence of figures in 1.3 (a) to (f) is intended to start from estimated total net 2022/23 expenditure, deduct grants and precepts and arrive at the net District Council Tax figure.

(g) This shows the Combined District and Town/Parish Council Tax for each area at Band D.

(h) Shows the figures in (g) for each valuation band.

APPENDIX 2

VALUATION BANDS

All dwellings have been valued by the Inland Revenue for the purpose of Council Tax. Valuations are based on property prices at April 1991. There are eight valuation bands and each dwelling has been placed into one of these bands according to its assessed value at that time. Band A is the lowest. The higher the band, the higher the charge will be. See the table below: -

BAND	RANGE OF VALUES	PROPORTION
A	Values not exceeding £40,000	£1.00
B	Values exceeding £40,000 but not exceeding £52,000	£1.17
C	Values exceeding £52,000 but not exceeding £68,000	£1.33
D	Values exceeding £68,000 but not exceeding £88,000	£1.50
E	Values exceeding £88,000 but not exceeding £120,000	£1.83
F	Values exceeding £120,000 but not exceeding £160,000	£2.17
G	Values exceeding £160,000 but not exceeding £320,000	£2.50
H	Values exceeding £320,000	£3.00

For every £1.00 of Council Tax for a band 'A' property, a band 'B' property will be charged £1.17 - and so on. Any discounts and reductions would make the difference less than this.

Taxpayers in band 'A' who fulfil the criteria for a reduction under the Disability Reduction Regulations will receive a reduction on their bill equivalent to the difference between the band 'A' and band 'B' charge.

APPENDIX 3

SUMMARY OF LOCAL COUNCIL REQUIREMENTS

LOCAL COUNCIL	2022/23			
	COUNCIL	TAX BASE	COUNCIL	COUNCIL
	TAX		TAX PER	TAX
	REQUIREMENT		BAND D	INC. / (-) DEC.
	£	PROPERTIES	£	FROM
				2021/22
				£
ASHURST AND COLBURY	44,983	930.00	48.37	0.76
BEAULIEU	8,000	518.20	15.44	-0.15
BOLDRE	29,320	1,069.00	27.43	0.57
BRAMSHAW	10,000	345.10	28.98	5.48
BRANGSORE	112,739	1,834.90	61.44	3.08
BREAMORE	5,566	184.20	30.22	-0.69
BROCKENHURST	80,863	1,902.90	42.49	0.00
BURLEY	14,814	797.70	18.57	1.59
COPYTHORNE	24,615	1,223.10	20.13	1.00
DAMERHAM	10,234	245.90	41.62	0.13
DENNY LODGE	5,717	161.50	35.40	0.71
EAST BOLDRE	16,000	387.70	41.27	-0.48
ELLINGHAM HARBRIDGE AND IBSLEY	19,175	627.50	30.56	-0.38
EXBURY AND LEPE	0	119.30	0.00	0.00
FAWLEY	643,326	4,621.30	139.21	1.83
FORDINGBRIDGE	285,144	2,413.30	118.16	6.87
GODSHILL	11,675	229.70	50.83	2.21
HALE	13,700	266.10	51.48	-0.14
HORDLE	122,684	2,450.30	50.07	1.32
HYDE	11,800	516.50	22.85	-0.17
HYTHE AND DIBDEN	904,430	7,479.30	120.92	8.82
LYMINGTON AND PENNINGTON	851,023	7,505.00	113.39	3.25
LYNDHURST	105,000	1,466.70	71.59	3.69
MARCHWOOD	246,460	2,070.40	119.04	0.00
MARTIN	7,673	198.70	38.62	0.47
MILFORD-ON-SEA	147,645	2,919.90	50.57	5.40
MINSTEAD	12,000	373.70	32.11	1.22
NETLEY MARSH	20,486	817.60	25.06	0.69
NEW MILTON	1,186,500	10,624.70	111.67	4.19
RINGWOOD	553,949	5,465.00	101.36	2.95
ROCKBOURNE	13,594	168.70	80.58	3.19
SANDLEHEATH	8,316	278.00	29.91	-0.16
SOPLEY	32,000	391.90	81.65	-0.17
SWAY	86,295	1,727.90	49.94	0.03
TOTTON AND ELING	1,329,660	9,440.70	140.84	5.72
WHITSBURY	2,200	100.90	21.80	0.04
WOODGREEN	9,550	248.80	38.38	3.19
	6,987,136	72,122.10	96.88	

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COUNCIL – 21 FEBRUARY 2022

ALLOCATION OF SEATS AND APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND PANELS

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That the allocation of seats to committees and panels in accordance with the principles set out in the report, be agreed as at the table at paragraph 4.6 of this report; and
- 1.2 That the Council gives effect to the wishes of the political groups in making appointments to these Committees and Panels, for the remainder of the four year period ending May 2023.

2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, it is necessary to review the representation of political groups on committees, having regard to the recent by-election in Bransgore and Burley and the current number of Members on the Council which stands at 59. For this purpose, “committees” includes the Council’s Overview and Scrutiny Panels but excludes the Cabinet.
- 2.2 There are four statutory principles of political balance which have to be applied in filling appointments to Committees. These are contained in Section 15(5) of the Act.
- 2.3 The principles that have to be applied are as follows:-
 - (a) that not all seats on the body are allocated to the same political group;
 - (b) that the majority of the seats on the body are allocated to a particular political group if the number of persons belonging to that group are a majority of the Authority’s membership;
 - (c) subject to paragraphs (a) and (b) above, that the number of seats on the ordinary committees of a relevant Authority which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the ordinary committees of that Authority as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the Authority; and
 - (d) subject to paragraphs (a) to (c) above, that the number of seats on the body which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the same number of all seats on that body as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the Authority.
- 2.4 Once the Council has determined the allocation of committee places between the political groups, the Council must then appoint the nominees of the political groups to the committees.
- 2.5 Those members who are not members of political groups have no legal entitlement to an allocation of seats on committees. However, the political groups are entitled to their proportion of seats and once their entitlement has been reached, the remaining seats may be filled by members not belonging to a political group. Such Members are classed as being non-aligned.
- 2.6 These provisions need not be applied if a different position is agreed without any member of the authority voting against.

3. CURRENT POSITION

3.1 The political balance of the Council stands at:-

Conservative Group 44 (74.58%)

Liberal Democrat Group 12 (20.34%)

Non-aligned Members 3

Vacancy 1

4. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND PANELS

4.1 There are 107 Committee/Panel seats to which appointments should be made under the principles of proportionality.

4.2 The application of the percentages outlined at paragraph 3.1 provides for the following allocation of seats to political groups across the overall Council position:-

Conservative Group 80

Liberal Democrat Group 22

Unallocated 5

4.3 The application of the percentages outlined at paragraph 3.1 provides for the following allocation of seats to the individual Committees and Panels:-

Committee/Panel	Seats	Conservative	Liberal Democrats	Unallocated Seats
Appeals Committee	20	15	4	1
Audit Committee	8	6	2	-
General Purposes and Licensing Committee	15	11	3	1
HR Committee	8	6	2	-
Planning Committee	16	12	3	1
Community, Partnerships and Wellbeing O&S Panel	10	7	2	1
Corporate Affairs and Local Economy O&S Panel	10	7	2	1
Environment and Sustainability O&S Panel	10	7	2	1
Housing and Homelessness O&S Panel	10	7	2	1
Total	107	78 (-2)	22 (-)	7 (+2)

4.4 The allocation of seats to individual committees leaves an unallocated seat on a number of Committees and Panels. It also leaves the Conservative Group short of two seats on the overall allocation, as at paragraph 4.2.

- 4.5 The Council could resolve to allocate a seat(s) to the non-aligned Members. The Council's Constitution makes provision for the allocation of seats to Members who are not members of a political group, as nearly as possible in proportion to the number of those members on the Council. There are five seats that could be allocated to the three non-aligned Members, outside of those that should be allocated to the political groups.
- 4.6 Therefore, having regard to the overall position outlined at paragraph 4.2 and having received notification of a preference from the Conservative Group in adjusting their allocation, a recommended allocation of seats is outlined below:-

Committee/Panel	Seats	Conservative	Liberal Democrats	Non-aligned
Appeals Committee	20	15	4	1
Audit Committee	8	6	2	-
General Purposes and Licensing Committee	15	11	3	1
HR Committee	8	6	2	-
Planning Committee	16	12	3	1
Community, Partnerships and Wellbeing O&S Panel	10	8	2	-
Corporate Affairs and Local Economy O&S Panel	10	7	2	1
Environment and Sustainability O&S Panel	10	7	2	1
Housing and Homelessness O&S Panel	10	8	2	-
Total	107	80	22	5

- 4.7 The nominees of the political groups to the Committees and Panels will be circulated ahead of the meeting, alongside the preferences of the non-aligned Members.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

6. CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no crime and disorder implications arising directly from this report.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no environmental implications arising directly from this report.

8. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Political balance ensures that Committees and Panels are representative of the wishes of the electorate.

For further information contact:

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Background Papers:

Local Government and Housing Act 1989