

## NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RESOURCES, AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2019 AT 10:00 HOURS IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, LYMINGTON TOWN HALL, AVENUE ROAD, LYMINGTON

#### **Present:**

##### *Members:*

Gordon Bailey  
David Bence  
Sue Bennison  
Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre  
David Harrison (Chairman)  
Patrick Heneghan (Deputy Chairman)  
Mel Kendal  
John Sanger

##### *Officers:*

Alison Barnes	Chief Executive
Steve Avery	Executive Director Strategy and Planning
Rosalind Alderman	Solicitor and Monitoring Officer
Nigel Stone	Chief Finance Officer
Nigel Matthews	Head of Recreation Management and Learning
Paul Walton	Head of Environment and Rural Economy
Hilary Makin	Communications Manager
David Stone	Corporate Services Manager
Frances Connolly	Executive Assistant

#### **73. Apologies for absence**

73.1 An apology for absence was received from Neville Penman.

#### **74. Declarations of Interest**

74.1 There were no declarations of interest.

#### **75. Chairman's announcements**

75.1 There were no announcements on this occasion.

#### **76. Minutes**

76.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 3 June 2019 were agreed as a correct record.

#### **77. Public Question Time**

77.1 There were no questions or statements from the public.

**78. Annual Audit Letter 2018/19**

- 78.1 Nigel Stone presented the Ernst and Young Annual Audit letter for the year ended 31 March 2019. He informed members that it was a summary of the 2018-19 financial year.
- 78.2 Mr Stone was pleased to report that no significant weaknesses had been identified and so there were no matters arising from the report.

**Resolved, that the Audit letter 2018/19 be accepted on behalf of the Authority**

*Voting: Unanimous*

**79. First Quarter Progress Report 2019-20**

- 79.1 David Stone presented the first quarter report on the 2019/20 Work Programme and said that this was in the new format agreed by the Authority in March. Although progress against the actions was now primarily measured only on the RAG (red, amber, green) status, officers would be happy to provide more information or clarification on a specific issues. In addition, a more detailed narrative on the work would be provided in the Chief Executive's report to the full Authority.
- 79.2 In response to a request by members, officers undertook to review the actions in the Work Programme to ensure that the expected outcomes and objectives set out in the tables were clearly defined and quantified to assist in assessing progress achieved during the year.
- 79.3 Members also asked officers to consider changing the RAG status of some objectives from green to amber, for example to acknowledge the importance of monitoring them and to show where desired outcomes are difficult to measure or might be dependent on other organisations.
- 79.4 Alison Barnes drew members' attention to the cross-cutting themes set out in Annex 2 to the report which reflected the strategic themes contained in the Authority's Business Plan. Relevant members of the Executive Leadership Team then briefed members on the background to the themes and expected outcomes. Members welcomed this integrated approach and commented on a number of joint working initiatives within the tables including the continued work of the HLS Scheme and habitat improvement work.

Members then noted the report.

**80. First Quarter Budgetary Control Report 2019-20**

- 80.1 Nigel Stone explained the report provided a summary of the financial performance for the first three months of 2019/20 financial year from 1 April to the end of June. He said that the overall expenditure position showed £1.31m spend over the first three months of the year which was 27% of the budget. Without the partnership projects, spend was £1.20m from a budget of £3.90m.
- 80.2 The overall income position showed £1.91m was received over the first three months of the financial year. Mr Stone said that without the partnership projects, income was £1.51m from a budget of £3.90m.
- 80.3 Nigel Stone informed members that the Authority had received a significant single planning fee of £150,000 for the proposed Fawley development and that this was shown separately within the report so as not to skew the standard fee reporting. He also reported that £55,000 had been paid out for an award of legal costs against the Authority relating to a planning/enforcement case. This would be mainly funded from the £51,000 provision which had previously been set aside from the Planning/Risk Reserve. The costs of the Local Plan Inspection had been confirmed as £74,500 which was similar to the total costs to date for all the evidence/preparatory work (c£75,000). If officer time was then added, the total cost to the Authority was likely to at least double that amount. Mr Stone said that the Authority is now required to do this every five years and this would therefore equate to around £60-70,000 per annum; he confirmed this would be fully considered within the future budget projections.

**Resolved, that the current income and expenditure position, including the potential savings and pressures identified be noted.**

**81. Any other items that the Chairman decides are urgent**

- 81.1 There were no urgent items on this occasion.

**82. Date of next meeting**

- 82.1 Members noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on 4 November 2019.

**PART II ITEMS WHICH MAY BE TAKEN IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC ON THE GROUNDS THAT EXEMPTED INFORMATION MAY BE DISCLOSED**

**Resolved, that the public be excluded from the meeting during the following item of business, as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during this item there would be disclosure to them of exempt information within Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, and further that in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, namely the need to avoid disclosing sensitive information relating to the Authority's financial affairs.**

**83. Planning for the Future – Oral update**

83.1 Members received an oral update on Planning for the Future. This is a summary of the minute which contains exempt information.

The meeting closed at 12.18 hours

**Signed .....**  
**(Chairman)**

**Date.....**