

Minutes

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| Name of meeting | CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE |
| Date and time | TUESDAY 8 OCTOBER 2019, COMMENCING AT 5.00 PM |
| Venue | COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT |
| Present | Cllrs Andrew Garratt (Chairman), Debbie Andre, Geoff Brodie, Julie Jones-Evans, Michael Lilley, Chris Quirk, Brian Tyndall |
| Co-opted (Voting) | Gill Kennett (IWALC) |
| Cabinet Members | Cllrs Barry Abraham, Paul Brading, Steve Hastings, John Hobart, Stuart Hutchinson, Ian Ward |
| Also Present | Cllr Karl Love Sharon Betts, Dave Evans, John Metcalfe, Brian Pope, Wendy Perera, Colin Rowland, Cate Sheen, Paul Thistlewood, Megan Tuckwell Stephen Child, Rob Gillespie (Island Roads) |
| Apologies | Cllr Lora Peacey-Wilcox |

32. [Minutes](#)

RESOLVED:

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2019 be confirmed.

33. [Declarations of Interest](#)

Cllr Julie Jones-Evans declared an interest in item 37(c) as a member on the PSP Board.

Gill Kennett declared an interest in item 37(b) as a Governor at St Saviours Catholic Primary School.

34. [Progress on outcomes and recommendations from previous meetings](#)

The chairman presented the report on outcomes from previous meetings and the committee noted the progress against recommendations. It was agreed that the chairman would seek responses from Cabinet Members in relation to outstanding actions from previous meetings.

The Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Transport provided an update following the meeting on 10 September 2019 and confirmed the resources available for the implementation of residential parking schemes. Further detail was requested, and it was agreed this would be provided.

Questions were raised regarding the progress on discussions with the Section 151 Officer on the possibility for facilitating a briefing on the budget. It was confirmed that work was ongoing with the Cabinet Member and Scrutiny Officer.

RESOLVED:

THAT the chairman seek responses from Cabinet Members in relation to actions that are outstanding from previous meetings.

35. Highway PFI Contract

The Director of Neighbourhoods, Strategic Manager for Highways & Transport, Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Transport, and the Engineering Manager and Regional Director of Island Roads Ltd, presented an update on the delivery of the Highway PFI contract. This included an overview of the contract agreement, organisation, and governance; the savings programme, scope of the PFI, core investment period progress, road conditions (with national indicators), the lifecycle, and defects.

Questions were raised and clarity was provided regarding the approved methodology, how road conditions were assessed, the role of the independent certifier, and the structure of the management team in terms of capacity, resources and skills.

Concerns were raised regarding communications with local members and town and parish councils on highway works, particularly around works being scheduled then repeatedly postponed. The Director of Neighbourhoods agreed that the communications process would be reviewed and would report back where improvements could be made.

Concerns were expressed regarding the delivery of new homes and how this could impact the highways infrastructure, and the delivery of the core investment period. Questions were raised regarding milestones and whether penalties had been issued. It was advised that officers are restricted by confidentiality and therefore the Cabinet Member and Director of Neighbourhoods would seek legal advice on what information can be made available to the committee given the content of the contract. It was suggested that a private meeting of the committee be held once legal advice has been obtained and members have identified further key lines of enquiry.

RESOLVED:

- i) THAT updated data on the number of roads that have been resurfaced at the programmed time be supplied by Mr Gillespie of Island Roads Ltd.

- ii) THAT The Director of Neighbourhoods review the process for communications with local members and town and parish councils on highway works and report back on where improvements can be made.
- iii) THAT the Cabinet Member for Transport and Infrastructure and the Director of Neighbourhoods seek legal advice on what information can be made available to the committee given the content of the contract.
- iv) THAT a private meeting of the committee be held once the legal advice has been received and members have identified further key lines of enquiry.

36. Corporate Complaints Process

The chairman presented the report which provided an overview of the progress in reviewing the Council's complaints system. The scope of the review of the complaints process was agreed and it was advised that a final report would be brought to the meeting on 7 January 2020.

RESOLVED:

THAT the progress in reviewing the Council's complaints process be noted.

37. Comments on items due to be considered by the Cabinet on 10 October 2019

a) Commercial Trading Company and Approval of the Commercial Strategy

The committee considered the Commercial Trading Company report which set out the options for the establishment of a commercial trading company, to open further channels for income generation. It was noted that the findings of the Committee's task and finish group on commercialisation had aided the formation of the report and the recommendations were supported.

The committee also considered the report which sought approval for the council's Commercial Strategy 2019-2022 and requested the Cabinet Member give members who were part of the committee's Commercialisation task and finish group early sight of the proposed action plan supporting the Commercial Strategy.

RESOLVED:

- i) THAT the recommendations in the reports for the Commercial Trading Company and Approval of the IVC Commercial Strategy be supported.
- ii) THAT the Cabinet Member for Procurement, Waste Management, Special Projects and Forward Planning be requested to give early sight of the proposed action plan supporting the Commercial Strategy.

b) **West Wight School Places – Decision**

The committee considered the report which sought approval for a Public Notice to be published to discontinue All Saints' Church of England Primary School and to undertake a consultation on the relocation of Yarmouth CE Primary School to the Freshwater site for the start of the 2021 academic year.

Questions were raised regarding the proposed temporary expansion of Yarmouth CE Primary School and how the transition would be managed. The Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills advised that two implementation groups would be formed to take forward the recommendations in the report.

Further detail was requested, and it was advised that the first implementation group would work with the governors and headteacher at All Saints' CE Primary School to ensure that the closure is carefully overseen. The second implementation group would work with the governors and headteacher at Yarmouth CE Primary School to ensure that the proposed relocation is carefully overseen and ensure that the school has access to the highest quality of advice when making decisions.

RESOLVED:

THAT the recommendations contained in the report be noted.

c) **Forward Plan**

The committee considered the forward plan. With regards to the proposed Procurement Strategy due to be considered at the Cabinet on 14 November 2019, it was proposed that the chairman meet with the Cabinet Member for Procurement, Waste Management, Special Projects and Forward Planning and the chairman of the Audit Committee to discuss this.

Discussion took place regarding the Housing Strategy due to be considered by the Cabinet on 14 November 2019. It was proposed that Cllrs Lilley and Andre meet with the Cabinet Member to discuss ahead of the strategy being finalised. This approach was welcomed, and plans were noted for the Scrutiny Officer and chairman of the Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Neighbourhoods and Regeneration to meet with the Cabinet Member to discuss the Island Plan and how scrutiny could be involved.

RESOLVED:

- i) THAT the chairman of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee and chairman of the Audit Committee meet with the Cabinet Member for Procurement, Waste Management, Special Projects and Forward Planning to discuss the proposed Procurement Strategy.
- ii) THAT Cllrs Lilley and Andre meet with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing to discuss the proposed Housing Strategy.

- iii) THAT the chairman of the Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Neighbourhoods and Regeneration, Scrutiny Officer and Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing, meet to discuss the process for the Island Plan and how scrutiny can be involved.

38. Leader's Update

In the absence of the Leader, the Deputy Leader advised that discussions had taken place with the Minister of State for Housing regarding the delivery of housing targets. It was hoped that she would visit the Island to see first-hand the challenges faced with the delivery of those targets.

RESOLVED:

THAT the update be noted.

39. Committee's Workplan

The committee considered the workplan. The chairman advised that he would be arranging for the committee to meet on an informal basis with the Cabinet to enable a discussion to take place on identifying four key areas contained within the Corporate Plan that would benefit from pre-decision scrutiny.

RESOLVED:

THAT the workplan be noted.

CHAIRMAN