



Minutes

Name of meeting	<u>CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</u>
Date and time	TUESDAY 9 JUNE 2020, COMMENCING AT 5.00 PM
Venue	MICROSOFT TEAMS MEETING – ONLINE
Present	Cllrs Andrew Garratt (Chairman), Debbie Andre, Vanessa Churchman, Richard Hollis, Michael Lilley, Michael Murwill, Chris Quirk, Brian Tyndall
Co-opted (Voting)	Gill Kennett (IWALC)
Cabinet Members	Cllrs Barry Abraham, Paul Brading, Steve Hastings, Stuart Hutchinson, Clare Mosdell, Gary Peace, Dave Stewart, Ian Ward, Wayne Whittle
Also Present	Cllrs Michael Beston, Geoff Brodie, Julie Jones-Evans, Karl Love Chris Ashman, Simon Bryant, Steve Crocker, Kerry Hubbleday, John Metcalfe, Wendy Perera, Colin Rowland, Claire Shand, Carol Tozer, Paul Thistlewood, Megan Tuckwell, Chris Ward, Geoff Wild
Apologies	Cllr John Nicholson

1. Minutes

RESOLVED:

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2020 be confirmed.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Brian Tyndall declared an interest in item 3, as chairman of the Audit Committee.

3. The Isle of Wight Council's Response to COVID-19

To prevent any duplication, the chairman proposed that discussion under this item would include the report to this committee (The Isle of Wight Council's Response to COVID-19) and the report due to be considered by the Cabinet on 11 June 2020, (COVID-19 Response and Recovery).

The meeting was briefly adjourned for five minutes to address a technical issue. In the absence of the chairman, the vice-chairman, Cllr Michael Lilley, took the chair.

The Chief Executive presented the report in relation to the Council's actions taken in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, and acknowledged the substantial impact caused by the need to provide a rapid emergency response to the management of coronavirus;

in terms of both the speed of response and the extent of the actions required to support and protect the community.

The chairman, Cllr Andrew Garratt, re-entered during discussion and took the Chair. The chairman advised that following publication of the report, members of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee undertook a deep-dive and raised a series of questions. These questions and responses are attached as [Appendix 1](#) and form part of these minutes.

Questions were raised regarding economic impact on the Island, including the support available for local businesses (particularly those reliant on tourism and summer trade) balanced against the need to protect the health and wellbeing of the population. Discussion took place regarding job preservation and creation, engagement with the Chamber of Commerce, and ongoing communications with Island businesses.

With regard to the financial impact to the Council the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance provided clarification around the use of the Council's reserves and likelihood of further Government funding. Discussion took place regarding the Island Deal and the Fair Funding Review.

Questions were raised regarding resourcing and capacity preparations for the easing of lockdown and a possible second wave. Discussion took place regarding the long-term sustainability of redeployed staff and the involvement of volunteers, community groups, and Town, Parish and Community Councils. It was proposed that the Cabinet should report to the next meeting on the Councils plans to deal with a second wave.

The temporary measures being put in place in town centres were highlighted. Information packs were available to assist retailers with ensuring that Government guidance was complied with for the safety of staff and customers. Additionally, appropriate signage was provided on the mainland in co-junction with the ferry operators.

With regard to the recovery plans there would be on-going liaison with members and town/parish and community councils. The good working relationships with the media would also be crucial in ensuring that the public were kept fully informed. An opportunity would also be taken within the plans to highlight green environmental issues such as walking, cycling and open spaces.

The committee felt that the Council should engage with Island residents as the recovery plan was developed. It was believed by members that the lessons learnt should be recorded and questions from the committee be answered in detail and each signed off.

RESOLVED:

- i) THAT we recommend to Cabinet that the health and wellbeing of the Island residents has to be the Council's priority and residents are actively engaged into the development of the recovery of the Island the way they wish to see their future.
- ii) THAT as part of the update letter to all residents an invitation be included to participate in an online survey to identify the priorities for recovery.

- iii) THAT a list of questions from the committee that are answered in detail by the officers and each question is signed off by the Chair and the Cabinet.
- iv) THAT a living document that lists all the lessons learnt including the negatives and positives in what happened and how they were resolved be maintained.
- v) THAT the Cabinet reports to the next meeting on the Councils strategy and plans to deal with a second wave (including health and economic aspects).

4. Comments on items due to be considered by the Cabinet on 11 June 2020

a) Covid-19 Response and Recovery

Consideration of this report was discussed under the previous item.

b) Public Health Strategy

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Housing Needs, presented the report and noted that the strategy came at a time of a public health emergency which highlighted the need to focus on protecting and promoting the health of the population.

The Director of Public Health advised that the strategy would span 2020-2025 and set out broad proposals for how the Council would deliver its public health responsibilities and make the shift towards prevention. Following approval, the Public Health team would work with internal and external partners to develop action plans to support the delivery of the strategy, which would be overseen by the Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Health and Social Care.

Questions were raised regarding the inclusion of issues including; substance misuse, dementia, healthy weight, and food quality. Discussion took place regarding the changing habits following the pandemic, such as cycling and walking. The strategy was noted and fully supported.

RESOLVED:

THAT the Committee supports the approval of the Public Health Strategy.

CHAIRMAN