

Minutes

Name of meeting	CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Date and time	TUESDAY, 9 JULY 2019 AT 5.00 PM
Venue	COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs Andrew Garratt (Chair), Debbie Andre, Paul Fuller, Michael Lilley, Karl Love, Brian Tyndall
Co-opted (Voting)	Gill Kennett (IWALC Rep)
Cabinet Members	Cllrs Paul Brading, Steve Hastings, John Hobart, Stuart Hutchinson, Clare Mosdell, Tig Outlaw, Dave Stewart, Ian Ward
Officers Present	Steve Apter, John Metcalfe, Gavin Muncaster, Wendy Perera, Natalie Smith, Claire Shand, Paul Thistlewood, Megan Tuckwell, Richard Vaughan

13. [Minutes](#)

RESOLVED:

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2019 be confirmed.

14. [Declarations of Interest](#)

Cllr Garratt declared an interest in item 19(b) as a member of Newport and Carisbrooke Parish Council.

Cllr Andre declared an interest in item 19(b) as a member of Sandown Town Council.

Cllr Fuller declared an interest in item 19(b) as a member of IWALC and Northwood Parish Council, and item 19(a) as the chair of the Footprint Trust as part of Wight Community Energy.

Gill Kennett declared an interest in items 19(b) and 20(a) as a member of Freshwater Parish Council.

Cllr Lilley declared an interest in item 19(b) as Mayor of Ryde and a member of Ryde Town Council, and item 19(a) as a trustee of Wight Community Energy.

Cllr Love declared an interest in item 19(b) as a member of East Cowes Town Council.

15. Public Question Time

Guy Eades of Sandown asked a question with regards to Public Health, and the chair advised that the question should be redirected to the Cabinet at its meeting on 11 July 2019.

16. 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 advised that Cllr Garratt was in contact with the Scrutiny Officer at Hertfordshire County Council to discuss its approach to scrutinising the budget.

RESOLVED:

THAT progress on outcomes and recommendations be noted.

17. Fire Service Improvement Inspection Plan

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer presented the progress report which outlined the actions required following the inspection of Her Majesty's Inspector of Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS), as agreed by the Committee on 8 January 2019.

The Committee raised issues such as low morale in the workforce, staff lack of confidence in raising concerns, and inclusivity. It was clarified that work was being done to become a more inclusive employer and engage with staff and the Fire Brigade Union. Discussion took place regarding post-traumatic stress disorder, and it was clarified that techniques from the Armed Forces was used. It was suggested that the Chief Fire Officer to meet with the IW CCG and the IWNHS Trust to establish a support service for firefighters based on the Island.

The Committee discussed risk management, prevention work, and national issues, and it was confirmed that prevention remained a statutory priority. Discussion took place regarding scrutiny arrangements for the Combined Fire Authority and it was agreed that details of this should be included in the monitoring report due to be submitted to the Committee at its meeting on 7 January 2020.

RESOLVED:

- i) THAT the Chief Fire Officer be recommended to meet with the IW CCG and the IWNHS Trust regarding establishing a support service for firefighters based on the Island particularly to assist with post-traumatic stress disorder.
- ii) THAT the monitoring report due to be submitted to the Committee at its meeting on 7 January 2020 include an overview of the scrutiny arrangements that would apply to the Combined Fire Authority.

18. Update on Digital Transformation

The Cabinet Member for Resources presented the report which outlined activities for the 2018/19 financial year in relation to the delivery of a Digital and ICT Strategy, following the initial report to the Committee in January 2018.

Questions were raised regarding what was being done to assist residents in digital poverty. The Chief Executive advised that a range of courses and activities were available, and all librarians were trained in digital skills to support the community.

Discussion took place regarding GDPR compliance, data retention, and future-proofing the new agile working equipment. Suggestions were made on how the Council could utilise existing technology to engage with the community (such as social media and live-streaming formal Committees). Questions were raised regarding the website redesign and it was clarified that this would be carried out by a combination of internal and external providers.

RESOLVED:

- i) THAT the progress with the delivery of the digital transformation strategy be noted.
- ii) THAT a report be circulated to the Committee on the approach being taken by the Council to overcome digital poverty.
- iii) THAT a report be circulated to the Committee on progress with the redesign of the Council's website.

19. Task Group Reviews

a) [Commercialisation](#)

Cllr Tyndall presented the report on commercialisation which detailed the outcomes of the second phase of work undertaken by the task and finish group. This re-examined existing commercial services within the Council and investigated other opportunities.

RESOLVED:

THAT the Cabinet Member for Resources be recommended to urgently implement a commercial strategy which took into account the content of the task group's report.

b) [Collaboration with Town and Parish Councils](#)

Cllr Andre presented the report which outlined the responses received in relation to the Committee's task and finish group reviewing collaboration with town and parish councils.

RESOLVED:

- i) THAT the views of town and parish councils on the good working relationships with Council services be welcome.
- ii) THAT the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing be recommended to investigate enhancing the role of town and parish councils in planning, and in particular section 106 agreements, and report back to the committee on any proposed actions.

- iii) THAT the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Public Protection be requested to review arrangements for engagement by the IW Community Safety Partnership with town and parish councils and report back on this at the November 2019 meeting.
- iv) THAT the Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Health and Social Care be requested to discuss the involvement of town and parish councils in Patient Participation Groups with Healthwatch and the IW Clinical Commissioning Group.
- v) THAT the Cabinet Member for Resources be requested to look at possible ways to identify the types of performance measures that could be introduced by town and parish councils in the delivery of services and what support could be provided by the Council to assist in this.
- vi) THAT the Leader be requested to consider amendments to the current consultation protocol between the Isle of Wight Council and town and parish councils in the light of this review and any relevant issues identified during the Cabinet meetings with local council representatives.

20. Comments on items due to be considered by the Cabinet on 11 July 2019

a) [West Wight School Places - End of Consultation Report](#)

Cllr Lilley posed a series of questions to the Cabinet Member for Childrens Services, Education, and Skills, who responded on the basis that the Cabinet agree the proposal to close All Saints Primary School.

Cllr Lilley requested information regarding provision for school transport during the transition period. It was advised that, due to the exceptional circumstances, free transport for displaced pupils would be assessed as part of the transition arrangements.

Cllr Lilley queried what extra funding was available to the schools in question to ensure that education standards are maintained, and it was advised that requests for necessary funding would be led by the governing bodies who would look at the operational parts of this decision.

Cllr Lilley sought reassurance that that every child at All Saints would get a school place in the West Wight and it was clarified that school places are a parental choice and that there are ample places available for All Saints parents to choose in the West Wight.

Cllr Lilley asked whether the new school in Freshwater would have capacity for 210 pupils and it was confirmed that it would.

Cllr Lilley queried whether the All Saints pupils could be accommodated on site during the transition period, and it was clarified that this had not been ruled out but for safety reasons and speed of the building work, ideally the site would be vacated. It was clarified that the works on the All Saint's site would not affect the preschool.

Cllr Lilley questioned why the date of closure was in the middle of the school year (April 2020) and it was advised that the original closure date was September 2019 but was delayed to not rush the process. It was noted that the proposed date to move back to the All Saint site was at the start of an academic year, September 2021.

Cllr Lilley questioned whether currently All Saints' staff could be assured that they would retain employment post-reorganisation, and it was advised that at this stage this could not be guaranteed, and HR would work with staff over the coming months to offer support during this period.

RESOLVED:

- i) THAT the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills, together with the supporting officers, were commended for the way that the consultation process was handled in challenging circumstances.
 - ii) THAT the Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Children's Services, Education and Skills be requested to look at any lessons learnt from the consultation processes after they had been fully completed.
- b) [Developing a Strategic Partnership for Public Health between Hampshire County Council and the Isle of Wight Council](#)

The Committee did not offer a formal comment on this matter at this stage as the Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Health and Social Care would be considering it at its meeting on Monday, 15 July 2019. Some concerns were however expressed regarding the interim arrangements and whether evidence showed this was good value for money.

RESOLVED:

THAT the item be noted.

- c) [Approval of the Council's Corporate Plan 2019-2022](#)

The Committee did not offer a formal comment on this matter at this stage as it would be discussed at Full Council. Minor grammatical amendments were highlighted, and it was noted that the refreshed Corporate Plan would be used to help update the scrutiny workplans.

RESOLVED:

THAT the item be noted.

- d) [East Cowes Waterfront Site Acquisition](#)

The Committee did not offer a formal comment on this matter at this stage. It was confirmed that the capacity within the Properties team would be increased appropriately.

RESOLVED:

THAT the item be noted.

e) **Forward Plan**

The Committee considered the forward plan including any proposed delegated decisions. Members were pleased that the Empty Property Strategy and Cowes TRO delegated decisions were progressing.

RESOLVED:

THAT the upcoming items on the forward plan be noted.

21. Leader's Update

The following updates were provided;

- The Leader advised that the latest operating figures for the Cowes Floating Bridge showed it was 94% reliable from July 2018 to June 2019.
- The Leader had been re-appointed as chair of the Police and Crime Panel.
- The Leaders' Annual Report would be presented to Full Council at its meeting on 23 July 2019 which would highlight key points.
- The Leader had attended the Local Government Association's annual conference and drew members attention to the Councillors' Guide to Handling Intimidation.
- The Leader circulated details of a new staff suggestion scheme aimed at identifying possible budget savings which would be presented formally at Cabinet on 11 July 2019.

RESOLVED:

THAT the updates be noted.

22. Committee's Workplan

The committee considered the workplan and no further comments were made at this stage.

RESOLVED:

THAT the workplan be noted.

CHAIRMAN