



Minutes

Name of meeting	POLICY AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS AND REGENERATION
Date and time	THURSDAY, 4 JULY 2019 COMMENCING AT 5.00PM
Venue	COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs Michael Beston (Chairman), Andrew Garratt, Michael Lilley, Chris Quirk, Brian Tyndall
Cabinet Members	Cllrs Steve Hastings; John Hobart, Wayne Whittle
Other Members	Cllr Karl Love
Officers Present	Chris Ashman, Marie Bartlett, Jamie Brenchley, Paul Thistlewood
Apologies	Cllrs Barry Abraham, Stuart Hutchinson, John Medland, Clare Mosdell, Ian Ward

1. **Minutes**

RESOLVED :

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on [2 May 2019](#) be confirmed with the following amendment to minute 24 – Speed limit policy:

The word Bay be added after the word Sandown in page A-2 second paragraph.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Brian Tyndall declared an interest in agenda item 6 as he was the Chairman of the Audit Committee

Councillor Michael Lilley declared an interest in agenda item 6 as the site concerned was in his ward

Councillor Chris Quirk declared an interest in agenda item 6 as he was a member of the Audit Committee.

3. **Public Question Time**

Tanja Rebel of Cowes asked a question relating to any risk assessment undertaken on Council employees being given a choice to work from wired connections rather than wireless.

She also asked a supplementary question regarding any policy on the installation of smart meters in new builds.

The chairman indicated that he would request officers to send a written response.

4. **Progress on outcomes are recommendations from previous meetings**

Clarification was given regarding money received from Planning Section 106 agreements. The Committee was informed that the money was to mitigate the impact of developments. Further discussions regarding this were required which would also involve town and parish councils to consider the best process. An email from the Strategic Manager for Planning and Infrastructure would be circulated for information.

The Committee were advised that a task group was being arranged with the committee and police to discuss the Speed Limit policy. Public Health would also be invited to attend.

Members asked as the island now had been promoted as a Unesco Biosphere reserve status if the Environmental Action Plan had reflected this. They were advised that progress could be monitored as part of the report to the meeting in September 2019.

There was a discussion on the re-introduction of Green Flag status on the island and possibly extend this to apply for blue flags as well. The Cabinet Member advised that it came under the Keep Britain Tidy plan. Officers were currently working on an application for green flag status at Northwood cemetery as part of heritage lottery funding. It was thought that the average cost of gaining an award in terms of infrastructure work to manage and maintain a scheme was estimated at around £10,000.

It was considered relevant to incorporate this into a report for the Committee under the Environmental Action Plan

The committee was updated on the public utilities item informing them that the Chairman from the Health Scrutiny Committee had shown an interest and it was advised that an informal briefing between members and Island Roads may be productive due to the commercially sensitive nature of some of the information.

RESOLVED:

- a) An item be included in the workplan relating to section 106 agreements.
- b) THAT the progress report at the September 2019 meeting on the environmental action plan include the impact of the biosphere status on the island, implications of seeking blue flag status for beaches and the operation of green flag status for green spaces.

- c) A meeting be arranged with representatives of Island Roads to discuss public utilities.
- d) The action relating to the meeting between Councillor Garratt and Visit IW regarding data be removed.

5. Housing

As the result of a request by the chairman a copy of the Diagnostic Practitioner Review feedback presentation slides were circulated at the beginning of the meeting. This related to an independent review undertaken in respect of the housing needs service.

The Housing Needs Service Manager upon taking up his post in December 2018 he had looked at other authorities to benchmark against. Data and performance was considered weak and the Isle of Wight was 10th highest nationally regardless of population. Performance and progress had been significant with a reduction in the number of B & B use especially for children over a six week period. It was believed that the current resources met statutory duties and an influx in applications would increase workloads significantly.

A Housing Strategy and Homelessness Strategy was being produced. The Housing Strategy would be agreed by December 2019. The Committee considered the performance measures, although they wanted a timeline for the implementation of some of the actions contained in it.

Members questioned the reasons why household were being accommodated in B&B's beyond 6 weeks. The Housing Needs Service Manager explained that he had not been in post during this time but assured members that by May 2019 this figure had been reduced to zero.

Concern was raised regarding the condition of some privately rented homes, and members asked if the standard of private landlord properties could be challenged. They were advised that the aspiration was to create a standard of property that landlords had to adhere to.

Partners also needed to be challenged, there needed to be a whole systems approach with everyone to come together and look at how we do things differently. Housing was not always just a housing issue, there were normally underlying issues such as mental health or substance misuse.

REOLVED:

- a) THAT an informal briefing be arranged for the Committee in advance of the proposed Cabinet decision in October 2019 on the Housing Strategy and Homelessness Strategy.
- b) THAT the resource implications of the strategies be formally considered by the committee as part of its review of the budget.

6. **Reference from Audit Committee – Nicholson Road, Ryde**

The Director of Regeneration advised the Committee that this scheme had been identified at an early stage for an internal audit, to ensure the correct processes had been followed. The chairman of the Audit Committee outlined why the matter had been referred to this committee.

Members raised concerns regarding the specialised expertise that had been sought. They were informed that the correct governance procedure had been followed when requesting expert advice. The budget had been agreed with money available for specialist advice if required.

RESOLVED:

- a) The updated action plan arising from the internal audit report, which includes the target dates, be circulated to the committee.
- b) The intention of the chairman of the Audit Committee to ensure that a follow up report on the internal audit report is included in that committee's workplan was noted.

7. **Regeneration Strategy**

The Regeneration Strategy was approved by Cabinet on 13 June 2019 and governors appointed to the High Street task force to consider the future use of the high street, although funding was still awaited.

Historic England experts had visited the Island in June 2019 and heritage had now been added to the Regeneration Strategy.

An outline business case for Ryde Interchange for was being drafted for submission. The final details of the procurement exercise in relation to Dino Isle was in hand.

Work had been undertaken regarding the East Cowes Columbine building seeking to protect jobs on the Island.

Questions were raised regarding the Camphill site. Correspondence had been received from the Prisons Minister indicating an assessment of the site was taking place and would be completed in July 2019. Regeneration would continue to work with the Ministry of Justice for use of the site.

Newport Harbour Master plan public consultation was arranged for 15 to 17 July 2019 and a six week island wide consultation would also take place. The harbour revision order was still outstanding although they had received some response to the application.

RESOLVED:

THAT the progress of the delivery of key regeneration projects be noted

8. **Relocation of the Record and Archive Service**

The Cabinet Member for Environment and Heritage advised the Committee that a study had been concluded around the relocation of the records office. The preferred location was Westridge as the building had previously been open to the public and considered fit for purpose. A final business case was required by National Archives by December 2019.

RESOLVED:

THAT the progress on the project be noted

9. **Committee's Workplan**

a. Cabinet Members Update

There were no substantial updates from Cabinet Members to report to the Committee

b. Workplan 2019/20

Members started consideration of the work plan but due to the number of members with other engagements the meeting became inquorate and it was therefore closed.

CHAIRMAN