



Deputy Director of Resources (Corporate Governance) &  
Monitoring Officer  
**Davina Fiore**

County Hall, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 1UD  
Telephone (01983) 821000

# Agenda

Name of meeting	<b>CROSS SOLENT SERVICES SCRUTINY TASK AND FINISH GROUP</b>
Date	<b>THURSDAY, 5 DECEMBER 2013</b>
Time	<b>6.00PM</b>
Venue	<b>COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT</b>
Members	Cllrs Geoff Lumley and Paul Fuller (Joint chairmen), Paul Bertie, Rodney Downer, Alan Hollands, Richard Hollis, John Howe, Stuart Hutchinson, Graham Perks, Matthew Price, Colin Richards, Dave Stewart, Ian Ward, Wayne Whittle.  IW Association of Local Councils – Councillor Harry Rees IW Youth Council – Zara Fuller IW Youth MP – Robert Selby  Democratic Services Officer: Julie Martin, Senior Democratic Services Officer, telephone 821000, email <i>Julie.martin@iow.gov.uk</i>

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## 1. Background

Full Council passed the following motion at its meeting on 16 October 2013 :-

THAT this Council is deeply concerned about further cuts to ferry services recently announced by Wightlink and the corresponding reduction in the service provided to Island Residents and visitors which has a direct impact upon the economy of the Island. As the Local Transport Authority the Council notes with regret that Wightlink failed to consult or engage with the Council or other Island stakeholders about their proposals. The Council is also very concerned about the levels of fares for crossings by motor vehicle on ferry services, which inhibits the ability of Island residents to travel for work, family, health and social reasons and again impacts greatly upon the economy of the Island and the quality of life for Island residents as well as having a direct effect on the tourist trade which is essential for the Island.

This Council resolves to take all possible steps it can to address this situation and, in addition, to support the Island's Member of Parliament and as an initial step the Isle of Wight Council invite senior representatives from each of the ferry companies to attend

an appropriate scrutiny panel to present and explain their position and take questions from the panel on behalf of the island community.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting on 7 November 2013, agreed to establish a task and finish group to deal with the motion and that it should comprise members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Economy and Environment Scrutiny Panel with the chairmen of each being joint chairs of the group

## 2. **Terms of reference**

To take evidence from the following :-

- Relevant users groups
- Island MP
- Representatives of relevant Island organisations including the Chamber of Commerce, IW Federation of Small Businesses, Visit Wight, IW Trades Council and the Quality Transport Partnership
- The operators – Wightlink; Red Funnel and Hovertravel

All meetings will be open to the public and press.

The Task and Finish Group will ascertain what arrangements could be put in place to ensure more effective liaison between the cross Solent ferry operators and the Island community on key aspects such as fares, frequency and timetabling together with facilitating a better understanding of the economic impact of service provision.

## 3. **To take evidence from representatives of a number of stakeholder groups**

To give an opportunity for invited stakeholder groups and individuals to identify key issues relevant to the terms of reference of the Task and Finish Group.

The three operators have been invited to give evidence to the Task and Finish Group on Thursday, 23 January 2014 at 6.00pm in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Newport, Isle of Wight.

[Click here to view the Written evidence](#)

[Click here to access recordings of Oral evidence given by representatives of stakeholder groups](#)

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