

# Island Strategic Partnership

MINUTES OF THE ISLAND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING HELD IN THE  
COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT ON 26 NOVEMBER  
2008, COMMENCING AT 5.00 PM

Present:

The Ven. Caroline Baston	Chair, Island Church Leaders' Forum
Cllr Sarah Doran	Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils - Nominated Representative
Danny Fisher	Chair Isle of Wight NHS
Richard Grogan	Chair, Environment Forum
Richard Priest	Chair, Rural Community Council
Cllr David Pugh	Chairman, ISP Board / Leader of the IWC
Chief Supt. David Thomas	Isle of Wight Police Commander
Cllr Diana Tuson	Safer and Stronger Partnership Board – Nominated Representative -
Sue Wadsworth	Chair, Isle of Wight Children's Trust

Also in attendance:

Steve Beynon	Chair, ISP Executive / Chief Executive IWC
Michael Bulpitt	Chief Executive, Rural Community Council
Astrid Davies	Head of Partnership (IW Council)
The Revd Jonathan Hall	Rural Dean – West Wight
Cllr Muriel Miller	Chair, IWC Scrutiny Committee (invited guest)
Sarah Mitchell	Director of Community Services
Paul Thistlewood	Principal Overview and Scrutiny Officer (invited guest)

Apologies:

John Metcalfe	Assistant Director, Economic Development, Tourism and Partnership
Cllr Dawn Cousins	Chair, Health and Wellbeing Board
Kathy Slack	Area Director of SEEDA (Observer)
Margaret Pratt	Interim Chief Executive - IW NHS PCT
Dr Jenifer Smith	Director of Public Health - IW NHS PCT
Cathy Evans	Government Office for the South East (GOSE) – observer

## 1. Minutes of the previous meeting

It was noted that Cllr Tuson was not the Chair of the Safer and Stronger Partnership Board but the Nominated Representative.

It was also noted that the Ven. Caroline Baston's title had previously been incorrectly stated and that it should be the Chair of the Island Church Leaders' Forum.

### RESOLVED:

THAT subject to the amendments noted above, the minutes for the ISP Board meeting held on [15 July 2008](#) were agreed.

## 2. Standing Item: Performance Update

The Chair of the ISP Executive, the Chief Executive of the IOW Council, addressed the Board and presented the latest performance update for the for the new Local Area Agreement using the Red, Amber and Green system to track progress. The following items were highlighted

### i. LAA Q1 & Q2

- Stopping Smoking - It was noted that the Isle of Wight Council did not employ a smoke free policy on all sites as there were still provisions for people to smoke in designated areas. It was requested that the issue of the smoking area within the County Hall car park be addressed and an alternative area for smokers would be looked at although the ideal scenario would be for people to give up. The Council would continue to offer support to those seeking to give up.
- Affordable Homes – The Board were advised that there were a number of measures in place to help address the problems. These included the find a home scheme that would help first time buyers get a foot on the housing ladder.
- Number of Criminal Damage Incidents (in area) Recorded by the Police - New signage has been deployed along with high visibility patrols targeting the Newport, Ryde and Sandown areas. The Isle of Wight Police Commander stated that whilst the target set was unachievable, there were signs that things were starting to move in the right direction.

### ii. LPSA2 Q1 & Q2

- Reducing Homelessness – Effective measures were being put in place.
- Community safety and night time economy - All victims were to be offered a free Smart Water kit. It was also reported that whilst the Island enjoys a low rate of violent crime, the influx of tourists over the holiday periods can increase the figures. A safer Christmas campaign was to be undertaken targeting drivers under the influence of drink and drugs.

The Archdeacon reported that plans were underway to introduce the street pastor scheme to the Island.

- Young people at risk of committing crime – It was reported that Ryde High School had introduced a reward scheme to pupils that has led to an increase in School attendance and figures of 90% were consistently being recorded. Cowes and Sandown High schools were still causing concern over absenteeism.

It was suggested that at future ISP Meetings, the performance reports could be provided in a more clearly defined written format.

**RESOLVED:**

THAT the Board note the progress made in the Performance Update.

**3. Rural Issues, the Rural Forum and the ISP**

The Chief Executive of the Rural Community Council provided the Board with a PowerPoint presentation that looked at the national rural picture and then the State of Rural Wight – 2008.

The report also provided general rural data as well as key points from the State of Rural Wight – 2008.

The following “six to fix” areas were highlighted using the Red, Amber and Green (RAG) system. Red indicated a priority, Amber a mixed picture and Green signified that the area was on course for compliance.

- Economic potential – Red - Need to encourage wealth creation by promoting innovation and enterprise.
- Affordable Housing – Red - In the last 5 years only 14 rural affordable homes had been built.
- Declining availability of rural services – Amber -Vital to ensure current levels do not deteriorate and a focus on the needs of older people.
- Rural transport – Amber - Transport is a clear social inclusion issue affecting the ability to maximise economic potential.
- Protecting the physical environment – Green – Good results providing the Eco Island initiative is adhered to.
- Empowered and active communities – Green - Lots of initiatives and positives.

The ISP’s involvement should ensure partners consider the implications of their policies and plans on rural communities. The RCC would draft a document called ‘Rural Proofing Eco-Island’ that would support ISP partners.

Some indicators needed to be considered at a sub Island level, such as affordable housing targets, or independent living, or children in poverty. Local Authority Area (LAA) action plans would also need to be created.

It was essential to ensure that both rural community views as well as the rural evidence base were fed into commissioning decisions.

The Island was classed as a "Rural 80" LAA, meaning that over 80% of the population lives in rural areas. This included larger market towns. DEFRA define the figure at 84% which therefore means that the Island had a good chance of benefiting from funding.

It was noted that the Chair of the Environment Forum was nominated as being the most appropriate representative for the Board, on the Rural Forum for the South East.

It was also noted that the Chief Executive of the RCC would bring back a paper to the March ISP Board meeting, to examine perhaps four measures, to address rural targets and issues.

**RESOLVED:**

- i. THAT the Board noted the rurality issues raised within the report
- ii. THAT the Chair of the Environment Forum be nominated as being the most appropriate representative for the Board, on the Rural Forum for the South East, and that GOSE be informed of this nomination.
- iii. THAT the Chief Executive of the RCC report back to the Board, to lead an examination of selected targets and issues regarding the delivery of services on a rural basis.

**4. Information Sharing Protocols**

The IWC Head of Partnership reported on behalf of the IWC Head of Strategic Project. The Information Sharing Protocol for the ISP is an innovative approach to data sharing and is also thought to be the first in the UK to look at a set of protocols of this nature.

The Protocol will facilitate the sharing of data across all partners of the ISP for the delivery of the Sustainable Community Strategy Eco Island, and various other themes and priorities.

Such information sharing is essential in effective service planning and delivery, particularly in such areas as the safeguarding of vulnerable members of the community as well as needs based commissioning.

The Protocol will be monitored and reviewed constantly, to ensure its effectiveness. It was therefore agreed that a report be brought back to the ISP Board in June 2009 to provide an update on the progress made.

**RESOLVED:**

- i. THAT a progress report be brought back to the ISP Board Meeting in June 2009
- ii. THAT the Information Sharing Protocols be endorsed.

**5. Standing Item: CAA Update**

The IW Council along with the IWNHS, the Hampshire Constabulary, the IW Association of Local Councils and the Rural Community Council had all nominated representatives

for the ISP CAA Working Group, as required at the ISP Board of 15 July 2008. Terms of reference had been agreed.

The Audit Commission was beginning its information gathering on Monday 1 December 2008 and the three public sector partners would be audited separately and also collectively with the whole of the ISP agencies, as an Area Assessment. The lead for the IW Council would be its Chief Executive from the end of November 2008 following the departure of the Director of Customer Services.

Managers from across the ISP's Member agencies attended a full-day conference on partnership and the CAA at Cowes Yacht Haven on 24 November 2008.

It was stressed that a good CAA score would offer many benefits to all partners.

**RESOLVED:**

- i. THAT the updated progress be noted.
- ii. THAT the Terms of Reference for the ISP CAA Working Group be endorsed.

**6. ISP Constitution Amendments**

Members agreed to change the current quorum from ten to seven in order to aid the decision making of the Board.

It was also agreed to consider including a member from the Independent Monitoring Board (IMB) to represent the three Prisons on the Island and to that effect, Dr Peter Selby, President of the National Council for the IMB, who resides on the Island would be approached.

A further change to the constitution that was endorsed was the change from monthly to six weekly meetings of the ISP Executive along with a rotating Chair.

ISP Board meetings would continue to be held in public, although the venue may change, moving away from the Council Chamber. Whilst verbal questions would not be taken, written questions would, providing they were submitted 48 hours in advance.

**RESOLVED:**

- i. THAT the quorum be reduced from ten members to seven.
- ii. THAT the Board approach Dr Peter Selby, President of the National Council for the IMB in order to clarify membership.
- iii. THAT the Chair of the ISP Executive be rotated as agreed.
- iv. THAT the ISP Executive meets on a six weekly basis.
- v. THAT written questions to the Board only be accepted 48 hours in advance.

## **7. Protocols for External Scrutiny**

The Chairman welcomed the Chair of the Isle of Wight Council's Scrutiny Committee who advised that all future LAA Reports would be seen by the Scrutiny Committee in place of IWC Cabinet.

The Board were assured that the Scrutiny Committee, which was implemented following the Local Government Act 2000, should be viewed as a non-political body offering constructive "critical friend" advice that would benefit all.

The protocol covered areas such as the submission of reports, the style and conduct of Scrutiny meetings and the handling of confidential items as well as guidance on response, conflicts and timescales.

It was suggested and agreed that an informal session be organised that would give all ISP Members an opportunity to talk to members of the Scrutiny Committee.

### **RESOLVED:**

- i. THAT the Board endorses and adopts the Scrutiny Protocol and ensure ongoing liaison with the IWC Scrutiny Committee, thus permitting the ISP's performance on the Local Area Agreement to be scrutinised at the earliest opportunity.
- ii. THAT the members of the ISP Board be invited to an informal session with the Scrutiny Committee.

## **8. Approval of the revised schedule of dates**

The revised dates of all future ISP Board and Executive meetings up until June 2010 were discussed and agreed by the Board.

### **RESOLVED:**

THAT the revised schedule of dates was agreed

## **9. Items for Information**

### **i. Eco Island Vision**

The Chief Executive of the IW Council advised the Board that the Eco Island initiative was still a priority and remained intact. However, the Council needed to be clear about what was best for the local community in terms of how and where renewable energy was implemented.

It was also stated that there was a clear need to emphasise the social and economical aspects of the Eco Island Vision as well as ecological.

### **ii. Christmas Carol Service**

The Chair, as Leader of the IW Council advised all Board members that the annual staff Christmas Carol Service at Newport Minster Church would be on

Friday 19 December 2008 at 3.00pm and all Partners of the Council were welcome to attend.

iii. Budget Consultation

The Chair, as Leader of the IW Council, advised all Board members that the Budget Consultation for the Town and Parish Councillors would take place immediately after the Meeting, and all Board members were welcome to attend if they so wished.

**10. Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next ISP Board Meeting would be on Tuesday, 3 March 2009 at 5.00pm in Committee Room 1.