



Minutes

Name of meeting	ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT SCRUTINY PANEL
Date and time	WEDNESDAY, 15 DECEMBER 2010 AT 5.00PM
Venue	COMMITTEE ROOM ONE, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs Ian Ward (Chairman), Paul Fuller, Lora Peacey-Wilcox
Officers Present	John Metcalfe, Rachel Mills, Peter Taylor, Paul Thistlewood, Chris Wells
Cabinet Members present	Cllrs George Brown, Edward Giles
Apologies	Roger Dixcey

20. [Minutes](#)

RESOLVED :

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on [27 October 2010](#) be confirmed.

21. [Declarations of Interest](#)

There were no declarations received at this stage.

22. [Forward Plan](#)

The panel considered relevant items contained in the forward plan for December 2010 to March 2011.

With regard to the intended delegated decision on the reconfiguration of the leisure facilities improvement programme the cabinet member indicated that this matter would now be linked in with a range of other budget issues to be considered by full council on 23 February 2011.

The items relating to the delegated decision about the Local Economic Assessment and the Economic Assessment report would be touched upon during the item on the economic strategy later in the meeting. The cabinet member also advised that it was still proposed to submit a report to the cabinet on the Island Plan Core Strategy.

RESOLVED :

THAT the current position relating to items on the forward plan be noted.

23. **PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT**

(a) [Economic Strategy – progress report on action plan](#)

The Deputy Director for Economy and Tourism gave a powerpoint presentation on progress with the delivery of the Economic Strategy.

The panel discussed the October 2010 figures for those on Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) on the island, including comparisons with 2009, the south east and national figures and those who were economically active. This information showed that in the age range of 18 to 24 the Island had a slightly higher on JSA than either the regional or national average. There also had been an increase in the number of people who were economically inactive and who did not want a job between 2004 and 2010.

The results of the business survey for July/August 2010 were outlined. This indicated that a number of Island businesses had seen an increase in orders which had slightly increased the numbers in employment this would flatten out due to seasonal activities.

With regard to the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership further meetings would be held to agree governance arrangements. The future of SEEDA assets were still to be decided by the government. The Deputy Director also reported on a range of business and marketing initiatives. One major element was attracting companies interested in developing wind and tidal energy on and around the Island.

Although the council's bid for pilot funding related to super fast broadband had not been successful it had been encouraged to resubmit this in the spring of 2011. Discussion was however continuing with BT about BT infinity services.

Members were told that the 2011 tourism marketing campaign had been agreed and in the course of being implemented. A campaign aimed at attracting those people who were day visitors to return for a longer stay would be expanded.

The cabinet member was due to take a delegated decision relating to a local economic assessment. Much of what had been reported to the panel would be reflected in this.

RESOLVED :

THAT a breakdown of the responses received in respect of the recent business survey be circulated to the panel.

(b) **Quarter 2 performance management report**

Consideration was given to elements of the performance management report for quarter 2, 1 July – 30 September 2010, which came within the remit of the panel.

The cabinet member understood that the gasification plant had been operating in recent weeks. This would assist with meeting the target for the percentage of municipal waste land filled. The panel expressed concerns that many members of the public were confused about recycling due to paper and cardboard waste being used for the plant as fuel for producing electricity.

Members noted that the council had no statutory duty in respect of commercial waste. Given the budget situation it was unlikely that the council would be able to become involved in any initiatives and it would be up to individual businesses to make appropriate waste management arrangements.

RESOLVED :

THAT the performance for quarter 2 be noted.

24. **ANNUAL PARKING REPORT**

The panel discussed the content of the annual parking report for 2009-2010. A number of related issues were also raised.

In connection with the annual report members were advised that the cost of the ticket machine replacement/upgrade programme was £513,000. With regard to enforcement the use of photographic evidence was proving to be a very useful tool. No figures were kept of the number of penalty notice tickets issued to island residents compared with visitors.

In discussing the Park Mark the panel was told that the cost of the scheme was £725 for 2009-10. The purpose of the scheme was to create a safer environment for users. The cabinet member advised that this appeared to be effective in the three car parks involved.

There were a number of car parks where no charge was made on the basis of size or helping to support the local economy. Members believed that the possibility of reviewing the policy should be considered at a later date. The cabinet member advised that a range of options on charging, including permits, was being looked at as part of the 2011-12 budget process. He said that it was important that the income received from car parking did not diminish. There were strict rules regarding the use of any surplus remaining from the income received after the operational costs had been met. This could only be used for transport and highway projects and schemes, including public transport.

The council's events team liaised with the car parking section on with requests for suspension of parking places for community activities.

RESOLVED :

- (a) THAT a table showing the number of permits sold for each category be included in the annual report for 2010/2011.
- (b) THAT the panel consider undertaking a review of the parking policy at a later date.

25. ISLAND TRANSPORT PLAN

Officers gave a powerpoint presentation as background to the recent publication of the draft Local Transport Plan 3. The evolution of the plan since 2001 was outlined. The coalition government had indicated that it would continue to be a statutory duty to produce this by April 2011. The consultation process for the council's plan was outlined.

The proposed plan would be split into strategy and implementation elements, be more flexible and adaptable to deal with changing circumstances and tie in with the PFI. It would also be linked in with the other key strategic plans of the council.

There were six objectives contained within the plan. Members debated the implications of these on different types of road users. The government had appeared to recognise that car travel was very difficult to restrict and control. The ability to influence and also provide bus services had diminished in recent years. A new sustainable transport fund would be available to assist in the establishment of community bus initiatives but the availability of funds was restricted.

With regard to road traffic accidents members noted that the figures were for those where a personal injury was involved. Vehicle damage only incidents were not included. Members believed that this information would be of value in identifying accident black spots thereby preventing possible future accidents where an injury was suffered.

The panel was informed of the island's LTP capital funding which had been announced that week. The amounts for integrated transport and maintenance had been confirmed for 2011/12 and 2012/13 and an indicative amount had been given for the two subsequent years. In discussing highway works mention was made by members of the impact that statutory undertakers had on the flow of traffic. There was a view that new services should be located in a special service trench located in a pavement or verge rather than in the carriageway.

RESOLVED :

- (a) THAT the availability of details on non injury traffic accidents be investigated.
- (b) THAT objective B include the wording " for all road users" at the end of the sentence.

- (c) THAT the situation regarding the installation of statutory undertakers facilities in the highway when the highway PFI is in place be clarified for members of the panel.

26. **IMPLICATIONS OF THE COMPREHENSIVE SPENDING REVIEW**

Due to the time the Chairman suggested that this item be deferred. The panel would be meeting in February 2011 to specifically discuss the budget.

RESOLVED :

THAT this item be deferred.

CHAIRMAN