

Minutes

Name of meeting	ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT SCRUTINY PANEL
Date and time	MONDAY, 22 MARCH 2010 COMMENCING AT 6.00PM
Venue	COMMITTEE ROOM 1, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, IOW
Present	Cllrs Ian Ward (Chairman), Julie Jones-Evans, Wayne Whittle
Officers Present	Jonathan Baker, Jay Jayasundara, Stuart Love, Paul Thistlewood
Cabinet Members	Cllrs Edward Giles
Apologies	Cllr Roger Dixcey

18. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED:

THAT the minutes of the previous meeting held on [3 February 2010](#) be agreed.

19. Declarations of Interest

None declared.

20. Forward Plan

Members reviewed the latest edition of the Council's Forward Plan of key decisions that would be taken over the coming four months and fell within the remit of the Panel. The following issues were discussed:

- i. Ref No: 1025/10 - Pixley Hill, Freshwater - Site Safety Assessment – Cabinet Member by end of April 2010

Members were advised that the purpose of the decision, due to be taken before the end of April 2010, was to report back on the result of the original safety audit which was ratified by the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport on 7 January 2010.

- ii. Ref No: 1031/10 - Review of Highways and Transport Fees and Charges – Cabinet Member by end of April 2010

The Director for the Economy and Environment advised that the decision was to ratify above inflationary charges in relation to areas such as Coastal

Management / Harbour fees and Highways management fees in order to address areas raised by the 2010/11 budget.

- iii. Ref No: 963/09 - Leisure Facility Improvement Plan - Gateway Review– Cabinet, 13 April 2010

The Panel was advised that the item related to the improvement programme for council leisure facilities.

- iv. Ref No: 901/09 - Amendment to Dog Control Orders – Cabinet, 13 April 2010

The decision was originally intended to be made via delegated powers by the Cabinet Member for Fire and Community Safety but the report would now be submitted for decision to Cabinet due to representations received.

- v. Ref No: 918/09 - Transport Policy Review– Cabinet, 11 May 2010

The Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment advised the Panel that prior to the decision being taken at Cabinet he would circulate a copy of the report.

- vi. Ref No: 1027/10 - Adoption of the Eastern Yar Flood and Erosion Risk Management Strategy – Cabinet, 1 June 2010

The Director for the Economy and Environment advised that the report would reflect the results of the recent public consultation and contain recommendations from the Environment Agency and the Isle of Wight Council on the next steps to address flood defences of the area.

- vii. Ref No: 1030110 – Ventnor to Niton - Route Options Study– Cabinet, 1 June 2010

The Panel was advised that the decision was to address the next steps of the Undercliff Drive road following public consultation on 25 February 2010 at Ventnor Botanical Gardens.

21. **Highways Private Finance Initiative (PFI)**

The PFI Programme Director addressed the panel with an update on the progress of the Highways PFI project following the recent announcement of the £364.6million PFI grant from the Department for Transport (DfT).

The Panel wished it to be placed on record their gratitude at the recent announcement of the council's success in securing the grant and congratulated the Programme Director and his Team in their great efforts.

Members were advised of the procurement process which following the OJEU Notice in March 2010 would include bids being received by 20 April 2010 with the evaluation of the bids completed by the end of May. A shortlist would then be drawn up and a competitive dialogue entered into in the first week of June 2010 with the Invitation to Submit Outline Solutions (ISOS). The competitive dialogue would be continuing in December 2010 with the Invitation to Submit Detailed Solutions (ISDS) and conclude in June 2011 with the Invitation to Submit Refined Solutions (ISRS).

In November 2011, the Call for Final Tenders (CFT) would be issued and following further procurement selection procedures in 2012 which would include selecting preferred bidders, the final award would be made in November 2012. It was anticipated that work would start in April 2013.

Members were advised that a risk of challenge would be high if the council did not follow through rigorously the European procurement procedures and following the introduction of further laws within the area, such a robust process was even more important.

Members were also advised that irrespective of the outcome to the General Election on 6 May 2010, the PFI for Highways programme would be unaffected as the funding would be derived from revenue and not capital.

The Strategic Director for the Economy and Environment advised the panel that a very healthy interest from the public sector had been received and it was anticipated that companies would be willing to invest resources to follow the process through.

The PFI Programme Director also reassured members that bidders would be made aware of the importance of the Islands busy seasonal tourist periods and that work would need to be carried out around such times in busy Island resorts. An Availability Matrix would be utilised to ensure that there would be no major road works affecting such areas. Bidders would also be encouraged to put forward best solutions in order to minimise any disruptions

With regard to the exclusion of car parking enforcement in the Outline Business Case (OBC) approved scope, members were informed that the PFI programme would still include the funding of routine maintenance within car parks but no enforcement element.

The Strategic Director for the Economy and Environment responded to the panels questions with regard to the recently procured Parking Meters and advised that the decision was made in order to replace older meters which had become obsolete. It was decided not to procure the latest state of the art parking meters as it was not in line with the council's budget strategy around parking policies. However the new meters were vandal proof and would also enable debit and credit cards to be used.

The Panel was also advised that the council would not pursue the option of pay on exit car parks at the current time as this would involve further areas of spending which was seen as inappropriate. This did not however prevent any option being revisited during the life of the PFI programme.

The PFI Programme Director suggested to members that such a long term project could result in a base being established on the Island. The Islands private sector could also be in a position to capitalise on providing accommodation to future workers on the PFI programme by providing temporary or even permanent lodgings.

RESOLVED:

THAT the Highways PFI update be noted.

22. Performance Management

Members reviewed the Local Area Agreement (LAA) 2 performance management information which came within the panels remit. The data was originally submitted to the Island Strategic Partnership (ISP) Board on 23 February 2010 and included a summary of the Economic and Environment Partnership Board performance report for the quarter ending 31 December 2009 as well as the Performance indicators relevant to the Partnership Board for the quarter, also ending 31 December 2009.

The Strategic Director for the Economy and Environment advised that following some initial problems, the gasification plant was working to capacity and the council was in continuing talks with plants owners and Biffa to ensure that targets were achieved. The council was also in the process of recruiting a person to a new post strategic manager specifically for waste.

The Panel was advised that with regard to NI 175 – Access to Services and Facilities by Public Transport, Walking and Cycling the council had no direct powers to influence the cost of using public transport. However there was an investigation being carried out by the Office of Fair Trading which would look into the matter. Findings of the enquiry would be made available in due course.

With regard to NI 185 - % of CO₂ Reduction from Local Authority Operations, the information took into account additional oils used by Schools as a result of the recent cold winter weather.

The NI 186 – Per Capita Reduction in CO₂ Emissions in the LA Area (%) (Annual Target Only), the council was looking at ways to invest in order to avoid unnecessary future fines as a result of non compliance and an Action plan would be drawn up to address this issue. The Strategic Director for the Economy and Environment indicated that it would be useful to have the panel involved in reviewing progress being made.

Members discussed the street lighting and the future possible installation of more efficient LED lamps. The Strategic Director for the Economy and Environment advised the panel that whilst it would always be a long term aim of the council to install energy efficient, cost effective equipment, such plans would need to be carried out in a measured way. The age of equipment would need to be taken into account as well as the economic impact of switching lights on and off as and when required.

With regard to the car share initiative, the Panel was advised by the Strategic Director for the Economy and Environment, that an information update could be provided following the meeting as to the effectiveness of the scheme. It was however accepted that such a proposal would face some initial resistance from people which needed to be addressed.

The Panel was advised that the implications of the new proposals on parking permits would be made clearer following the termination of the previous permits.

Members discussed the issues surrounding the NI 191 and NI 191a – Residual Household and Commercial waste – actual tonnage. The panel was advised that tourism waste was classed as commercial so not included within these figures. Any waste from someone staying in a second home would be classed as household.

RESOLVED:

- i. THAT the LAA2 performance management information for Quarter 3 as submitted to the Island Strategic Partnership Board on 23 February 2010 be noted.
- ii. THAT an item be included within the Panel's Workplan relating to the carbon reduction commitment.

CHAIRMAN.....