



# Minutes

Name of meeting	<b>ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT SCRUTINY PANEL</b>
Date and time	<b>WEDNESDAY, 27 OCTOBER 2010 COMMENCING AT 6.00PM</b>
Venue	<b>COMMITTEE ROOM ONE, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, IOW</b>
Present	Cllrs Ian Ward (Chairman), Roger Dixcey, Lora Peacy-Wilcox, Wayne Whittle
Officers Present	Jonathan Baker, Peter Hayward, Stuart Love, Chris Mathews, Paul Thistlewood
Cabinet Members	Cllrs George Brown, Edward Giles

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## 13. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

### RESOLVED:

THAT the minutes of the previous meeting held on [28 July 2010](#) be agreed.

## 14. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Wayne Whittle declared a personal and prejudicial interest in minute 18, the Forward Plan if there was any discussion on the future possible tendering for operating Island Leisure Facilities.

## 15. Highways PFI

The Strategic Director Economy and Environment provided gave an update on the Highways Private Finance Initiative (PFI). He advised that following the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) on 20 October 2010, the Government had announced that it was still keen for the project to proceed. However, the Council would have to demonstrate value for money and negotiations with the Department for Transport would determine the shape and size of the venture. Such discussions would be carried out by the end of October 2010. Following this it was intended that all members would be provided with a briefing on the latest position.

The procurement aspect of the PFI was still progressing well with all three bidders on board.

Funding was, in light of the CSR likely to be reduced. The actual figures were still to be ascertained and measures may be required to alter the specification and

content of the project. It had been possible to adhere to the original timescales despite the delay caused by the general election and Comprehensive Spending Review.

**RESOLVED:**

THAT the update on the Highways PFI Progress be noted.

**16. Waste Strategy**

The Strategic Director for the Economy and Environment and the Head of Highways and Transport provided an update on progress with the Council's Municipal Waste Plan. The Cabinet had considered a report on this matter at its meeting 14 September 2010. The Island Plan Proposed Submission Core Strategy which was being consulted upon included options for inclusion within the waste strategy.

The Panel discussed the recent award of the contract for street cleansing which had resulted in a new contractor and any implications that this would have for the overall waste strategy.

It was noted that as the existing landfill site at Lynnbottom would have reached its expected capacity by 2015 alternative sites had been explored. Although no specific site had been confirmed an extension of the current site could be the favoured option as the land was already in Council ownership. Although there were a small number of mineral sites these were privately owned. The new site would be for household waste only.

With regards to commercial waste the Strategic Director advised members that the Council did not have a statutory role unlike for household waste. Government targets for recycling only applied to household waste although there was an ongoing dialogue at national level about a reduction in packaging.

The 13% reduction in household waste arising on the Island had been achieved due to a variety of reasons which included less packaging used by the main supermarkets. With regard to the compost which was derived from household waste the Strategic Director confirmed that this initiative was still in place.

Some members raised concerns at a number of Island residents not utilising the black and green re-cycling boxes to their full potential. There was a belief by some members of the public that due to the way waste was processed on the Island, particularly with the Gasification Plant, it was not necessary to separate material out. The Strategic Director advised members that it was still important for people to recycle by means of both black and green boxes. The Council's current scheme relied on household's opting to take part in recycling initiatives. The Strategic Director agreed to look into the possibility of providing data to the committee that may indicate which areas of the Island recycled most. The promotional activities regarding recycling were being reviewed to ensure that these were targeted more effectively.

With regard to operation of the gasification plant the Panel was advised of the latest position. Although recent tests had shown emission levels were now within

acceptable limits officers still had concerns about the ability of the plant to operate at capacity for a sustainable period.

Arising from all the work currently being undertaken the Strategic Director indicated that a range of options would be drafted by the end of the year.

RESOLVED:

THAT progress with the Island's Municipal Waste Plan be noted.

**17. Budget 2010/11 and the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2011/14**

The Strategic Director for the Economy and Environment provided members with a PowerPoint presentation on the Budget Position for 2010/11 and highlighted the areas within the remit of the Panel.

The forecasted outturn for the Transport & Environment Service would be £17.7million which would result in an over spend of some £666,000. The Economy Tourism & Leisure service had a forecasted outturn of £5.469million, resulting in an over spend of £55,000, the main area being Economy & Tourism Development.

The Strategic Director advised that four areas of the Transport & Environment Service would generate a negative forecast variance. The main over spend was Parking Services & Traffic Regulations, with a variance of £1.19Million in over spend with coastal management, Business Management and Transport Strategy / Highway Design over spend figures forecasted at £45,000, £15,000 and £98,000 respectively.

However, members did note that five areas within the service would register under spends. These were Waste & Cleansing Management at £256,000, Passenger Transport & fleet at £161,000, Head of Highways & Transport at £179,000, Highway Maintenance, Structures Street Lighting & Rights of Way at £69,000 and Transport Policy at a £20,000.

The Cabinet Member for the Economy, Tourism, Leisure, Planning and Property reported that on the positive feedback being received on the Council's investment in the promotional campaign, "Just Add Water". He also advised of discussions that were being held with the Head of Planning Services about reviewing planning policy on how applications in relation to existing hotel accommodation were dealt with.

RESOLVED:

THAT the current forecasted position regarding the Budget 2010/11 and the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2011/14 be noted.

**18. Forward Plan**

The Forward Plan for November 2010 to February 2011 was reviewed and in particular those items of interest to the Panel.

Included within the delegated decision relating to the Integrated Transport & Road Safety Grant – In Year Budget Reductions was cessation of servicing the static speed cameras on the Island, although mobile speed cameras would continue to be utilised by the police in those locations. The casings of the static cameras would however remain in place as a reminder to drivers of the speeding and accident hot spots as well as be used a continuing speeding deterrent.

With regard to the future of the Cowes Chain Ferry members were advised that the decision would be part of the item on the Future Shape and Structure of the IOW Council, and would be debated and decided by the meeting of the Cabinet on 7 December 2010.

**RESOLVED:**

THAT the Forward Plan be noted.

**19. Members Question Time**

Cllr Roger Dixcey raised an oral question on the impact that works on the highway were having on traffic particularly in the Newport area. The Strategic Director advised of the policy with regard to timing of works on the highway. A large number of these were the responsibility of utility companies and outside the direct control of the Council although these should be co-ordinated and there was power to intervene where works were not being carried out with due diligence.

CHAIRMAN.....