

Minutes

Name of meeting	ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL
Date and time	WEDNESDAY, 2 FEBRUARY 2011 AT COMMENCING AT 5.00PM
Venue	COMMITTEE ROOM ONE, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs Ian Ward (Chairman), Roger Dixcey, Paul Fuller, Lora Peacey- Wilcox, Jerry White
Officers Present	Stuart Love, John Metcalfe, Paul Thistlewood
Cabinet Members present	Cllrs George Brown, Edward Giles

1. **Minutes**

Members noted that following the decision of full council to reduce the number of scrutiny panels it was necessary to approve the minutes of the last meetings of two of the panels as the majority of the functions had been merged into a new panel.

RESOLVED :

THAT the minutes of the meeting of the Economy, Environment and Transport Scrutiny Panel held on [15 December 2010](#), and meeting of the Fire and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel held on [1 December 2010](#) be confirmed.

2. **Declarations of Interest (1) and (2)**

Councillor Paul Fuller declared a personal interest in minute 4 as he was a governor of Cowes High School.

Councillor Roger Dixcey declared a personal interest in minute 4 as he dealt with pathways and dropped kerbs.

3. **Terms of Reference**

The panel was reminded of its revised terms of reference as agreed by full council on 19 January 2011.

RESOLVED :

THAT the terms of reference be noted.

4. 2011/12 – 2013/14 Budget Strategy

The panel received an overview of the current budget position and the specific implications for those services coming within its remit. The Strategic Director for Economy and Environment gave a short powerpoint presentation highlighting key aspects in relation to savings proposals. In addition an outline was given of the service areas where there would be additional revenue expenditure.

Members were advised that an announcement would shortly be made on the future provision which would replace the council operated tourist information centres. With regard to the reduction in the number of public conveniences the consultation exercise closed on 31 January and there had been a high level of response. It was likely that a number of facilities would move between the retention and closure lists.

With regard to Cowes floating bridge the panel was advised that the proposal to introduce a charge for foot passengers was aimed at establishing a source of funding for a replacement vessel. The panel had concerns as to the impact that this proposal would have on the communities involved.

There would be an increase of £100,000 for economic development aimed at progressing support to the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership. Funding for the leisure improvement programme would continue as well.

Discussion then took place on the shortfall in income arising from car parking. The panel believed that there was still sufficient public interest in the re-introduction of a residents permit, but set at a more realistic cost, which would generate additional income for the council.

Other matters that were touched upon related to the level of inflation allowed for in highway contracts, second home owners letting out property for tourism purposes, flexibility within the highway capital programme, fire service modernisation and aspects of the PFI project. In addition members

RESOLVED :

THAT the cabinet be advised :

- (a) That consideration should be given to the re-introduction of an island residents parking permit,
- (b) That the panel reinforces the local concerns being raised about the introduction of a charge for pedestrians using the Cowes floating bridge.

5. Forward Plan

The Panel was made aware of the relevant items to its remit as contained within the forward plan for February 2011 to May 2011. It was noted that the decision relating to the public convenience review would now be dealt with by the cabinet on 1 March

2011 rather than by way of a delegated decision. It was also likely that the report on the introduction of maximum recycling approach to waste management would slip to allow for sufficient time for consultation.

The Strategic Director indicated that the cost implications of becoming members of Transport for South Hampshire was being assessed to ascertain if this would be cost effective.

CHAIRMAN