



# Minutes

Name of meeting	<b>ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL</b>
Date and time	<b>WEDNESDAY, 22 JUNE 2011 COMMENCING AT 5.00PM</b>
Venue	<b>COMMITTEE ROOM ONE, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT</b>
Present	Cllrs Ian Ward (Chairman), Reg Barry, Roger Dixcey, Paul Fuller, Lora Peacey-Wilcox, Jerry White
Officers Present	Peter Hayward, Stuart Love, John Metcalfe, Paul Thistlewood
Cabinet Members present	Cllrs George Brown, Edward Giles
Other members present (non-voting)	Cllr David Williams

---

1. [Minutes](#)

**RESOLVED :**

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on [27 April 2011](#) be confirmed.

2. [Declarations of Interest](#)

Councillor Roger Dixcey declared a personal interest in Minute 4 as he operated a business.

Councillor Edward Giles declared a personal interest in Minute 4 as he was the Council's representative on the Board of Island Waste Services Limited.

3. [Public Question Time](#)

Ms Tanya Rebel asked a question relating to the recently approved Transport Plan and the need to improve and develop cycle tracks together with ensuring the affordability of public transport. The Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Waste indicated the Council's commitment to improve both the cycle track and public footpath network and the proposed introduction of community buses.

#### 4. Household Waste Collection Arrangements

The Chairman welcomed Daniel Clarke, Deputy Youth MP for the Island, for this item.

The Panel discussed the report that was submitted to the Cabinet the previous evening relating to the proposed implementation of revised waste collection and disposal arrangements.

The new arrangements would involve a commercially operated garden waste collection service. This would provide a fortnightly collection service at an annual subscription of £60. Residents could still however purchase bags and take these to a civic amenity site for disposal. Members clarified that cat litter and dog waste could only be placed in the non recyclable waste bag or bin. The proposed service would also enable all types of paper to be placed in the recyclable bag/bin rather than just certain types as currently operated.

Textiles would not be specifically included within the recycling collection but could still be taken to civic amenity sites and other locations where textiles banks were sited.

Members raised concerns as to arrangements for residents who did not have an appropriate area to keep a wheelie bin or would be unable to put these out for collection. It was noted that the Cabinet had given delegated authority to the Strategic Director, in consultation with the Cabinet Member, to make adjustments to the service in the light of any specific issues being identified.

The operation of the gasification plant was discussed and this would continue to feature as part of the overall waste strategy. It would process all food waste and take appropriate material to process into energy. The Council did not have a contract with the operators of the plant but with Island Waste who had its own arrangements with them.

With regard to the consultation exercise the Panel believed that a good response had been received from the public. It was noted however that it was not possible to identify the areas where respondents lived as this had not been sought.

The key principle behind the revised arrangements was to divert waste from landfill. It was intended to achieve a diversion rate of 73% .The Strategic Director reported that the recently published Government Waste Policy Review would mean that the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme would end in March 2013. This would not affect the business case for the Council's revised collection arrangements. There was no additional Government grant available.

Members discussed the difficulties that were currently experienced with the frequency of the recyclable waste collection service, particularly over the recent bank holidays in April and May. Lessons had been learnt with regard to this.

At present the Council did not have any involvement in commercial waste although it had discussed this matter on a number of previous occasions with

the Chamber of Commerce. There was an opportunity to explore this in the development of the new waste contract which would commence in 2015.

The Strategic Director indicated that a communications plan would be drafted to support the implementation of the revised collection arrangements.

**RESOLVED :**

THAT the Cabinet's decision in relation to household waste collection arrangements be noted.

**5. Performance and Budget**

(a) [Quarterly Performance and Strategic Risk Management Report – Quarter 4 2010/11](#)

(During the debate on the following item Councillor Lora Peacey-Wilcox declared a personal interest as she had been involved in a phone survey of Island businesses).

The Panel gave consideration to the performance report which was submitted to the Cabinet on 10 May 2011.

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for the Economy and the Environment indicated that a final decision on the Council's membership of the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) had not yet been made. It was estimated that this would cost approximately £40,000 per annum. The Panel was also advised of a successful breakfast meeting recently held at which 80 businesses attended.

An outline was given of survey work undertaken on a quarterly basis to assist with tourism marketing. Tourism businesses could be included on the Council's database in order to receive information on the latest image campaign.

The indicator relating to shortage of skilled labour was raised and the work being done on this was explained. Reference was made to the job opportunities that would be created through the Highway PFI. It was noted that there had already been discussions with the College on the provision of suitable training courses and the bidders were also involved in this process. In addition this topic would be identified during engagement with 14 to 19 year olds at school.

The strategic risk register included a reference to the impact that any reduced inward investment and withdrawal of private sector investment would have on the Island. There was a cautious view and the recent award of a contract to GKN worth over £200m provided a positive message.

A query was raised in relation to targets that had been included as part of the carbon management plan. The panel was advised that a revised

plan had been drafted and would shortly be the subject of a delegated decision.

Members debated the number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents. It was noted that it only required one accident involving two or more people to create a large percentage increase. Where specific locations were highlighted through spikes in the number of accidents it was possible to consider undertaking an engineering solution such as Beaver Shute.

There had been a slight increase in the number of accidental fires in domestic dwellings. An analysis of incidents was being undertaken to identify any particular trends to enable targeted campaigns. In relation to the new number of dwellings being built on the Island these incorporated the higher fire prevention standard required.

RESOLVED :

THAT the performance report be noted.

(b) [Budget 2010/11 and 2011/12](#)

The Chairman referred to the budget report considered by the Cabinet the previous evening. This indicated that there had been an underspend of £576,000 in the Transport and Environment budget. The Strategic Director explained that this had been achieved through a variety of actions and helped offset the shortfall in parking income.

The underspend on the regeneration and community development budget was a carry forward of an area based grant which would be utilised by the end of 2011/12.

RESOLVED :

THAT the budget issues be noted.

6. [Forward Plan](#)

Members gave consideration to the relevant items contained within the recently published forward plan for July to October 2011. There was an interest in the proposed decisions relating to Newport Harbour Regeneration and the transfer of the Ventnor Botanic Garden to community management.

Reference was made to the discussions earlier in the meeting about the Council's membership of the Portsmouth and Urban South Hampshire Partnership. The Strategic Director indicated that as the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership had now fully established its Board it would be appropriate for the Panel to look at its objectives and how these would be delivered.

The Panel discussed the possible inclusion of an item relating to bus fares as a future agenda item. It was however noted that there was currently a Competition Commission enquiry into the effect on bus fares if there is limited

competition for the operation of local bus services. This was due to report at the end of the year.

**RESOLVED :**

THAT consideration be given to the inclusion of an item on bus fares in the Panel's workplan at a later date.

7. **Members Questions Time**

Councillor David Williams asked a question as to the number of wheelie bins that would be required for recyclable waste. The Strategic Director indicated that this would require only one 240 litre wheelie bin.

Councillor Reg Barry asked a question in relation to the prevention of tomb stoning at locations where there were no byelaws in force. The Strategic Director indicated that if he was advised of the location he would look at what actions were appropriate.

CHAIRMAN