



Minutes

Name of meeting	ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL
Date and time	WEDNESDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER 2011 COMMENCING AT 5.00 PM
Venue	COMMITTEE ROOM ONE, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs Ian Ward (Chairman), Reg Barry, Paul Fuller, Lora Peacey-Wilcox, Jerry White
Officers Present	Stuart Love, Chris Mathews, Stuart May, John Metcalfe, Paul Thistlewood
Cabinet Member present	Cllr George Brown
Other members present (non-voting)	Cllr David Williams
Apologies	Cllr Roger Dixcey

8. [Minutes](#)

RESOLVED :

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on [22 June 2011](#) be confirmed.

9. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations received at this stage

10. **Performance and Budget**

(a) Quarterly Performance Management Report – Quarter 1 2011/12

(i) Fire and Rescue ([Recording 1](#) and [2](#))

Members discussed the numbers of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents for the period January – March 2011. This showed a 40% increase over the same period in 2010. The Assistant Chief Officer – Prevention and Protection outlined that there were three approaches to dealing with trends or clusters. These involved education, enforcement or engineering.

From the information gained in the first quarter it had been identified that a large number of accidents were caused through the severe weather conditions in January. A specific campaign would therefore be undertaken during the winter months. The information also indicated that minor engineering works were required to the mini roundabout at Smallbrook junction. Officers were also looking at solutions to reducing the number of pedestrian injuries in Regent Street, Shanklin; Union Street, Ryde and St James Square, Newport.

The Panel was made aware that the funding of fixed speed cameras from the Safer Roads Partnership had ceased. There was some concerns that because of public awareness of the cameras not working accidents resulting from speeding at the relevant locations would increase. Discussions were being held with Hampshire Constabulary about the deployment of a mobile unit. It was proposed to utilise Section 106 monies to fund the operation of the camera at Wootton. There was the possibility of using income arising from drivers attending training sessions to fund cameras at other locations.

With regard to fire and home safety checks the panel was informed of work being undertaken in conjunction with the Drug Alcohol Action Team. This had identified a number of incidents where alcohol was the contributing factor and the persons involved would benefit from safety checks and advice.

Officers reminded members that the modernisation of the fire service on the Island had been based upon community risk profiling and intelligence lead deployment of appropriate resources. The Panel noted that where the response standard was not met these were investigated.

There would be a delay in the transfer of the fire control to Surrey. The Panel was advised that although the intended savings for 2011/12 would not now be achieved in 2011/12 there had been other savings within the service that would offset this.

RESOLVED :

- a. THAT the age range breakdown of those killed or seriously injured in the January – March 2011 period be circulated to the Panel;
- b. THAT a report be submitted to the Panel on how the traffic accident figures are recorded and collated and then used to inform an engineering, education or enforcement solution.

(ii) [Regeneration and the Economy](#)

(During the discussion on this item Cllr Lora Peacey-Wilcox declared a personal and prejudicial interest due to her daughters employment on the Pan Meadows development and left the room)

In looking at the performance issues regarding regeneration and the economy a large amount of information arose from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and the quarterly Island business survey.

The progress being made in submitting a bid for funding for the installation of a superfast broadband network was outlined. Whilst there was a grant of £3m available this was subject to match funding. The Council was therefore in discussion with a number of partners as to how this could be progressed and for a business case to be formulated. The Highway PFI gave an opportunity for infrastructure works to be undertaken.

Members were made aware of action being taken to ensure that the Island workforce had the necessary skills required by businesses. Whilst housing came under the Health and Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel, members requested details of the local employment and training opportunities afforded by the development at Pan Meadows. There was also a debate about tourism and visitor numbers.

RESOLVED :

- a. THAT an update on actions being taken on the delivery of the six strands contained in the Economic Strategy be considered by the Panel at its March 2012 meeting.
- b. THAT details of the local employment and training opportunities arising from the Pan Meadows development be reported to the next meeting.

(Cllr Lora Peacey-Wilcox re-entered the room)

(iii) [Highways PFI](#)

Members were reminded that they had recently had a briefing session outlining the latest progress with this project. The Strategic Director indicated that a document setting out the benefits and risk mitigation measures associated with the project would be a public document when completed.

RESOLVED :

THAT the report be noted.

(iv) [Waste Strategy](#)

The Panel was advised that although the response to the recent public consultation on changes to the waste collection arrangements had been good it was not as high as had been hoped for. Further work was being undertaken to ensure that households opted for the most suitable arrangements for their property.

It was noted that the gasification plant had been closed for a further period and this had impacted upon the performance targets. The new collection arrangements from February 2012 would help improve performance but the full effect of this would not be fully transparent until 2012/13. The existing waste contract would cease in October 2015. Work was ongoing with a new waste strategy which would look at a range of options taking into account the technologies now available.

RESOLVED :

THAT an updated timeframe regarding the formulation and delivery of the new waste strategy be circulated to the Panel.

(b) [Overall Budget and Financial Position](#)

The Panel discussed the information contained within the budget report submitted to full Council on 21 September 2011 which was of particular relevance to the services within its remit. This identified a range of areas being looked at for budget savings and service efficiencies for 2012/13.

There would be a review of income generation in the Economy and Environment Directorate. The Panel believed that this would be an appropriate topic for it to become involved in.

The need for the Council to monitor the delivery of contracts was highlighted. The Strategic Director outlined the proposals for the establishment of revised procurement arrangements and structure.

RESOLVED :

THAT the Panel assist in the review of income generation within the Economy and Environment Directorate.

11. [Forward Plan](#)

Consideration was given to items of relevance to the Panel within the Forward Plan for October 2011 to January 2012.

It was clarified that the traffic regulation order relating to St Thomas' Square and St James' Square, Newport was intended to assist in the control of vehicles accessing those areas.

With regard to joint working arrangements with Southampton City Council the Strategic Director reported that discussions were still being held. A Member Board was looking at the options and appropriate reports would be made to the Employment Committee in due course.

RESOLVED :

THAT the Forward Plan be noted.

12. **Progress Report on Recommendations**

An update was given on progress with actions and recommendations arising from previous meetings. It was highlighted that the Competition Commission's inquiry was a national review and not specific to the Island.

RESOLVED :

THAT the report be noted.

13. **Members Question Time**

Councillor Reg Barry sought clarification over the vacancy that existed on the Panel. He was advised of the background to this and it would be for full Council to agree how to fill this position.

CHAIRMAN