



Minutes

Name of meeting	ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL
Date and time	WEDNESDAY, 30 MAY 2012 COMMENCING AT 5.00 PM
Venue	COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs Wayne Whittle (Chairman), Paul Fuller, Lora Peacey-Wilcox, Jerry White
Cabinet members present	Cllrs Barry Abraham, George Brown, Edward Giles
Officers Present	Steve Apter, Peter Hayward, Stuart Love, Chris Mathews, Paul Thistlewood
Apologies	Cllrs Reg Barry, Ian Ward

1. [Minutes](#)

RESOLVED :

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on [28 March 2012](#) be confirmed.

2. [Declarations of Interest](#)

There were no declarations received at this stage.

3. [Rights of Way](#)

The panel considered a report on the reduction in the rights of way budget of £30,000 following its concern expressed on this at the 8 February 2012 meeting. The saving strategy behind the decision was outlined. The restructuring enabled a more proactive engagement with the voluntary sector on rights of way issues. There was no reduction in the budget for works to the network.

The panel was made aware that the rights of way service would continue to be delivered in house after the commencement of the highways PFI.

In response to a query regarding the implications of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 members were advised that islands were excluded from the requirements for a coastal path. The council was however supporting the Ramblers Association own actions in encouraging the development of an enhanced coastal route. Members were also advised that the council was

meeting the government's target on the availability for use of rights of way. There were currently 13 sections of path closed and works were being undertaken to these so that they could be re-opened by June 2013.

RESOLVED ;

THAT the report be noted.

4. **Car Park Income**

Members received the latest figures for parking income in 2011/12 with comparisons for 2009/10 and 2010/11. It was noted that where car parks were closed in connection with adjacent works a charge was levied. The basis upon which the charge was based was outlined.

The panel was reminded that a new parking strategy was being developed which would look at a range of issues including that of permits. This would encompass the needs for residents, tourists and businesses.

A number of individual queries on parking income, CCTV and parking regulations were responded to by the cabinet member and strategic director.

RESOLVED ;

THAT the report be noted.

5. **Fire and Rescue Service**

(a) **Fire control**

The Chief Fire Officer gave a powerpoint presentation in support of his written report on progress with the transfer of the fire control to Surrey. The key elements of the actions taken to date were outlined and the transfer successfully took place on 3rd and 4th March 2012. A total of 334 incidents had been handled since that date. These included 3 major incidents each presenting different operational challenges. The response standards to incidents had been unaffected by the transfer.

Phase 2 included the introduction of an automated vehicle location system (AVLS), command suite, mobile command unit and further partnering benefits. It was anticipated that one of the benefits arising from the introduction of AVLS would be an improvement in attendance times.

RESOLVED :

THAT the work of the staff involved from both the Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service and the Surrey Fire and Rescue Service in the completion of the successful transfer of the control facilities be recorded.

(b) [Fire service integrated risk management plan and annual report](#)

The panel considered the draft integrated risk management plan which was to be the subject of a public consultation exercise. The plan also included the annual report for the fire and rescue service. The Chief Fire Officer also gave a powerpoint presentation which highlighted a number of aspects contained within the draft document.

Whilst the annual report took a look back on what had been achieved in the previous year the management plan look forward to the actions that were to be taken over the following three years. The panel noted the importance of building on the prevention work undertaken by the service and in particular through joint working with other partners. Home safety checks would be specifically aimed at properties occupied by vulnerable people such as single elderly residents, those with long term disability or illness, in long term rented accommodation and single parent families. Often it was the environment within which a person lived that impacted upon their safety and wellbeing.

RESOLVED :

THAT the proposed draft fire service integrated risk management plan and annual report for public consultation be noted.

6. [Economic Improvement Fund](#)

(Cllrs Lora Peacey-Wilcox, Paul Fuller, Jerry White and Wayne Whittle declared a personal interest in this item due to their membership of a town or parish council)

The corporate governance manager submitted a report on the bids that had been submitted by town and parish for funding under the council's economic improvement fund. This had been requested by the main committee as part of its consideration of the budget in February 2012.

The criteria used in assessing the bids were outlined together with those that were approved and the payments made to date. The panel noted that there would not be any monitoring exercise to measure the economic wellbeing benefits of each scheme due to the resources that this would involve. Provided works were completed in accordance with the submission, payment would be made.

RESOLVED :

THAT the report be noted.

7. **Performance Management**

(a) [Quarterly performance management report – quarter 4 – 2011/12](#)

Members gave consideration to the corporate priorities report, as submitted to cabinet on 22 May 2012, for the service areas coming

within the panel's remit. The appropriate section from the priority of delivery of budget savings through changed service provision relating to the fire service was also circulated.

A range of issues were discussed in relation to the priorities of regeneration and the economy, highways PFI and waste strategy together with the fire and rescue service including the following :-

- The Island Breaks website would still operate when the Destination Management Organisation was established.
- Best practice, both nationally and internationally, on ways of reducing youth unemployment was looked at.
- Need to avoid duplication in the delivery of local initiatives on advice and guidance to business where new national schemes were being introduced.
- The gasification plant had suffered a number of problems affecting its availability.
- The updated figures for landfill and recycling rates would be reported to the next meeting.
- Specific action being taken with different classes of road users to reduce the number of accidents where people were killed or seriously injured.

RESOLVED :

THAT the report be noted.

(b) [Corporate priority performance 2012/13](#)

(During the course of the debate on this item Cllr Lora Peacey-Wilcox declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the development at Pan Meadows due to a member of her family being employed on that site and left the room)

The panel was advised that a review was being undertaken with regard to performance indicators used in conjunction with the corporate plan priorities. The indicators for the services which had been included in the priority of delivering budget savings through changed service provision regarding those service areas coming within the panel's remit were also circulated.

This showed that there were five new measures for regeneration and economy, two for highways PFI, two for the waste strategy and one for environmental health. An issue in relation to local employment and training was raised.

RESOLVED :

THAT the proposed performance indicators be supported.

8. **Progress Report on Recommendations and Outcomes**

The panel received an update on actions being taken as the result of previous meetings.

RESOLVED :

THAT the report be noted.

9. **Forward Plan**

Members were made aware of relevant items contained within the forward plan for the period June 2012 to September 2012. A query was raised in respect of the community bus scheme which the strategic director indicated he would look at.

RESOLVED :

THAT the items be noted.

CHAIRMAN