



Minutes

Name of meeting	ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL
Date and time	WEDNESDAY, 8 FEBRUARY 2012 COMMENCING AT 5.00 PM
Venue	COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs Ian Ward (Chairman), Reg Barry, Paul Fuller, Lora Peacey-Wilcox, Jerry White
Cabinet Members present	Cllrs Barry Abraham, Edward Giles
Other Members present	Cllr Julie Jones-Evans, Wayne Whittle
Officers Present	Stuart Love, Chris Mathews, John Metcalfe, Paul Thistlewood
Apologies	Cllr Roger Dixcey

23. [Minutes](#)

RESOLVED :

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on [23 November 2011](#) be confirmed.

24. [Declarations of Interest](#)

Councillor Lora Peacey-Wilcox declared a personal interest in Minute 27 as she owned a small business.

25. **Public Question Time** (Recording [1](#) and [2](#))

Ms Tanja Rebel asked a question of the Chairman as to whether the Panel would be looking at proposed biomass plant as an issue. The Chairman, in conjunction with the Strategic Director, indicated that this would be matter for the Planning Committee and a full environmental statement would be required in support of the planning application.

26. [Annual Parking Report – 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011](#)

The Panel considered the content of the annual parking report for the period of 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011. A range of issues in connection with its

content were raised and in some instances the Strategic Director agreed to supply the details requested outside of the meeting.

Members noted that the report was required to be published by 30 October of each year. They indicated that this should be included as an item in the workplan for the first meeting after that date.

The intention to produce a parking strategy for the Island was noted. The Panel wished to be involved in developing this and where appropriate engage with relevant stakeholders.

Various aspects of the report were discussed and several areas where figures required clarification highlighted. Members indicated that they would find it beneficial to receive a monitoring report on income levels and related information on a regular basis. This should also show details in respect of each parking place.

RESOLVED :

- (a) The following details relating to the Annual Parking Report 2010-2011 be circulated by the Strategic Director to the Panel :-
 - (i) The number of dispensations issued;
 - (ii) The costs of the Civil Enforcement Agents,
 - (iii) The cost to the Council of cases referred to the Traffic Penalty Tribunal;
- (b) The Panel offer its assistance to the Cabinet Member in the development of an Island Parking Strategy.
- (c) The Panel would wish to see the Annual Parking Report for 2011/12 at its meeting immediately following its publication.
- (d) The Panel to receive a specific quarterly monitoring report on car parking income.

27. **[2012/13 – 2014/15 Budget Strategy, Council Tax Setting and Corporate Plan/Medium Term Financial Strategy](#)**

Members considered the report due to be submitted to the Cabinet on 14 February 2012 regarding the 2012/13 budget. In support of this the Cabinet Member and officers identified specific issues of relevance to the Panel by way of a powerpoint presentation.

An outline was given of the key budget headlines and the proposed savings for highways, transport and waste. In discussing these members expressed some concerns on the impact of a £30,000 reduction in the rights of way budget. Although the Panel was informed of the background to this item they sought further assurances that the continued maintenance of the extensive rights of way network was not put at risk. Reference was made to previous item on the Annual Parking Report and the monitoring report requested on car parking income. This would include information on the number of permits issued together with income from each parking place.

With regard to the savings arising from the fire control merger with Surrey the Cabinet Member indicated that funding from Central Government was being looked at. He made reference to the substantial investment made in the Fire and Rescue Service with the provision of new appliances and equipment.

Members discussed the budget for supporting the Council's key economic development themes involving both revenue and capital expenditure. There was also a range of revenue savings proposed in the environment element of the budget.

In debating the future development of employment sites the Panel felt that whilst accepting there was a demand for small units there was still the need for new medium to large units. The Panel was also told of the Council's involvement in supporting the installation of superfast broadband across the Island and the basis of funding arrangements which also involved the Government and private sector.

The commitment to support the development of a stand alone Destination Management Organisation (DMO) for the tourism industry was considered. The Panel was advised that this was to lead to a private sector led tourist board. Whilst noting the range of stakeholders that would be involved members believed that it was important that this included all relevant business interests irrespective of size.

RESOLVED :

- (a) As part of the Panel's budget monitoring it will receive a specific quarterly monitoring report on car parking income as agreed in Minute 26(d).
- (b) Due to the concerns of the Panel in relation to the proposed reduction of £30,000 in the rights of way budget, E19, a report should be submitted on the delivery of the proposed future maintenance programme.
- (c) In delivering employment sites through the capital programme, in conjunction with the Homes and Community Agency, facilities should be provided for a range of small to large businesses.
- (d) The Council to ensure that, as part of its long term commitment to support the tourist industry, smaller businesses are fully engaged in the development of the Destination Management Organisation.

28. Members Question Time

A number of members referred to the recent changes to the waste collection arrangements and indicated to the Chairman that the Council's Contact Centre had experienced a high volume of calls but appeared to have dealt successfully with these.

CHAIRMAN