



Minutes

Name of meeting	FIRE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY SCRUTINY PANEL
Date and time	MONDAY, 5 OCTOBER 2009 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM
Venue	COMMITTEE ROOM ONE, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs David Whittaker (Chairman) Jerry White, Adrian Whittaker, David Williams
Officers Present	Marian Jones, Stuart Love, Julie Martin, Zoryna O'Donnell, Paul Street, Paul Thistlewood
Cabinet members	Cllr Barry Abraham
Other members	Cllr Vanessa Churchman
Apologies	Cllr Heather Humby

1. **Minutes**

RESOLVED :

THAT the Minutes of the meeting of the Policy Commission for Safer Communities held on [2 April 2009](#) be confirmed.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Adrian Whittaker declared a personal interest in Minute 3, Fire and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel Terms of Reference, as he was involved with the Eco-Island Actions.

3. **Terms of Reference**

Members were reminded of the Terms of Reference for the Scrutiny Panel as approved by the meeting of the Full Council held on 17 June 2009. It was noted that the panel was also to undertake the Council's statutory duties in connection with the scrutiny of crime and disorder and this would meet on an annual basis. The Council's corporate priorities that came within the panel's area of working were also outlined.

RESOLVED :

THAT the terms of reference be noted.

4. **Fire and Rescue Service Modernisation**

Members were advised that consideration of fire service modernisation had started several years ago. The Bain report indicated there should be modernisation of all Fire and Rescue Services and that massive changes were needed. The Integrated Risk Management Plan included a review of health and safety together with general issues around fire cover and sustainability which had resulted in a project team being created to look at the potential restructure of the service.

At the 20 April 2009 Cabinet meeting the launch of the options for change was debated with a recommendation that option 5 be chosen. There was some concern around Shanklin Fire Station closing as part of that option and further work was to be undertaken. Concern was also raised around the risk analysis for Yarmouth Fire Station should it be closed in relation to the bridge controls on the River Yar. The changes contained within option 5 had taken into account the council's revenue and capital constraints.

During the public consultation exercise undertaken on the proposed changes concern had been raised with regard to the closure of Yarmouth Fire Station and the two options relating to Shanklin Fire Station. Commerce had also been consulted and generally supported the proposed changes.

In addition to the concerns specifically raised in connection with Yarmouth and Shanklin comments were also received in respect of Sandown and the future of fire cover in the Bay area.

It was noted that the Fire Brigade Union supported the proposals.

It was anticipated that the cost would be approximately £8m for the first phase which was to be spent within the next three years with the capital currently ring-fenced to the project. A further £8m would be needed for phase two of the project.

The panel was given figures for several stations that had experienced difficulties in turning out due to the non availability of retained firefighters. Although it was manageable the position would not be sustainable in the long term.

Questions were raised with regard to turn out times which the Chief Fire Officer clarified. He also advised members how the code black, amber and red system worked and the number of occasions these had been encountered during the past year when appliances were not available.

The panel was made aware of the content of the report that was to be considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 13 October 2009 and the associated recommendations.

RESOLVED :

THAT the proposals for the modernisation being considered by the Cabinet be supported.

5. **New Scrutiny Powers on Crime and Disorder**

The Head of Community Safety gave a presentation on the Isle of Wight Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP). The function for the scrutiny of crime and disorder was to come within the remit of the Fire and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel.

Since 2006 every CDRP had a duty to undertake an audit of crime and disorder within their area and produced a strategy every 3 years. The audit was replaced by Annual Strategic Assessments and was reviewed on a 6 monthly basis which gave more up to date information and the opportunity to consider that information within the action plan.

The Strategic Assessment in relation to the fear of crime undertaken in October 2008 showed there were positive changes and people on the Island felt more confident. The key finding of the 2009 assessment were to be presented to the CDRP strategy group on the 26 October 2009 which would influence how the action plan would be amended and delivered to reflect the priorities and findings of the assessment.

The panel was advised of discussions held by the CDRP and a number of recommendations that it had made following its meeting on 28 July 2009 on working arrangements. In considering the co-option of a representative from the Hampshire Police Authority onto the scrutiny panel members believed that it would be beneficial if this could be the Council's representative on the Authority.

RESOLVED :

- (i) THAT the report be noted;
- (ii) THAT the Scrutiny Panel together with the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP), undertake to raise awareness about the new powers and duties among elected members (particularly, members of Scrutiny Panel), Council staff, CDRP and Island Strategic Partnership partners;
- (iii) THAT the Scrutiny Panel together with the CDRP, conduct a review on a community safety subject (for example, based on the results of the Comprehensive Area Assessment) which could culminate in a conference bringing together local people and a wide range of community safety and other partners in the local community (the Question Crime type of event);
- (iv) THAT the Scrutiny Panel together with the CDRP develop and agree a protocol defining such arrangements as responding to recommendations of the Scrutiny Panel (including a provision for the scrutiny function to consult the partnership informally on a report, or recommendations, before the report was formally submitted), timescales for responding to requests for information and other requests from the Scrutiny Panel, and defining 'reasonable notice' for attending the meetings of the Scrutiny Panel;
- (v) THAT a representative of the Hampshire Police Authority be co-opted onto the Scrutiny Panel as a non voting member when it looks at community safety issues and to request that the Isle of Wight Council's representative on the Police Authority be the person appointed;

- (vi) THAT the Scrutiny Panel utilises existing community engagement structures of the Isle of Wight CDRP rather than creating a new group;
- (vii) THAT the most appropriate model of the Call for Action should be used for community safety and for other government matters;
- (viii) THAT the Scrutiny Panel's work programme be agreed in consultation with the relevant CDRP partners.

6. Performance Management

- (a) **To review the relevant performance management information as submitted to Cabinet on 1 September 2009, for Quarter 1 to 30 June 2009**

Members considered performance management information coming within the remit of the panel. An extract from the 1 September 2009 Cabinet report was considered, it was anticipated that the Quarter 2 figures would be available shortly. There was a need to work out a reporting mechanism to enable the most up to figures to be available to the scrutiny panel whereby they could meet on an informal basis which would help to inform the workplan on future items.

RESOLVED :

THAT the report be noted.

- (b) **To review the relevant LAA2 performance management information for Quarter 1 as submitted to the Island Strategic partnership Board on 10 September 2009**

An extract from the performance report as presented to the Island Strategic Partnership Board, which related to the CDRP information, was considered. The report reflected some of the issues which would come before the Scrutiny Panel as part of its future workplan.

RESOLVED :

THAT the report be noted.

CHAIRMAN