



# Minutes

Name of meeting	<b>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
Date and time	<b>THURSDAY, 11 NOVEMBER 2010 COMMENCING AT 5.00 PM</b>
Venue	<b>COMMITTEE ROOM ONE, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT</b>
Present	Cllrs Wayne Whittle (Chairman), Reg Barry, George Cameron, Vanessa Churchman, Heather Humby, Julie Jones-Evans, Colin Richards, Arthur Taylor, Gary Taylor, Ian Ward
Cabinet Member (non voting)	Cllr George Brown
Officers Present	Dave Burbage, Astrid Davies, Stuart Love, Chris Mathews, Paul Thistlewood
Apologies	Cllrs John Hobart, Margaret Webster

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12. [Minutes](#)

RESOLVED :

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on [29 September 2010](#) be confirmed.

13. [Declarations of Interest](#)

Cllr Jones-Evans declared a personal interest in minute 14 as she knew someone employed at the Royal Hotel, Ventnor.

Cllr Whittle declared a personal and prejudicial interest in minutes 15 and 17 due to business interests in Sandy Slip and Western Kiosk at Ryde and Browns at Sandown.

14. [Call In – Delegated Decision 37/10 – Investing in a new lift for the Botanic Garden at Ventnor](#)

The lead member for the call in, Cllr Churchman, outlined the reasons for calling the delegated decision in and the desired outcomes as stated within the relevant notice.

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for the Economy, Tourism, Leisure, Planning and Property, Cllr George Brown, outlined the background to the delegated decision that he had taken. He responded to the specific issues raised within the call in notice together with ancillary questions that had arisen.

Cllr Brown advised the Committee of an approach that had recently been received from a company offering to repair the existing lift as it had previous experience of this type of installation. As the result of this he was proposing to amend the delegated decision to enable an investigation to be undertaken by this company on the viability of repairs as opposed to replacement.

The Committee sought clarification on a number of issues related to both the lift and the new catering franchise. The need for the Garden to attract visitors, particularly the coach trade, was a vital element in maximising the income potential of the facility. It was also noted that attempts would be made to minimise the impact of any works during the key holiday periods.

**RESOLVED :**

- a. THAT the proposal by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for the Economy, Tourism, Leisure, Planning and Property to include an option D in the original delegated decision which would :-

“Investigate, as a matter of the highest priority, the commissioning of lift experts, to carry out detailed and intrusive lift inspection work to ascertain the viability of undertaking repairs, as opposed to replacement. Should this be judged reliable and of a substantially lower cost than a new installation, to advance to the competitive procurement of lift repair. If investigation proves negative, to revert to a delegated decision on Option B without further delay.”

be supported by the Committee.

- b. THAT the concern of the Committee in this matter having been dealt with by way of a delegated decision, and for the decision not to have been included on the forward plan, be drawn to the attention of the Leader.
- c. THAT because of the financial position of the Council, a review should be undertaken on the amount deemed to be a key decision, currently £250,000, to see if it would be appropriate to reduce this figure down to £200,000.

**15. Strategic Asset Management Plan (Recording [1](#) and [2](#))**

Members reviewed the progress being made with the implementation of the action plan for 2010/11 which supported the Strategic Asset Management Plan. In addition consideration was given to the capital receipts programme.

Whilst welcoming the information provided members indicated that the format of the action plan should be changed so that it was simpler to understand. The Strategic Director for Resources dealt with a number of queries in relation to specific sites.

**RESOLVED :**

THAT the progress report be noted.

16. [Budget 2010/11 and Forecast for 2011/12](#)

The Strategic Director for Resources gave a brief overview of the impact of the Comprehensive Spending Review on the Council's budget position. Although the actual figures for the Island would not be fully known until 2 December 2010 the budget gap over the next four years would be £32m. Due to the front loading of cuts in the first two years of the Government's four year public finance proposals reductions of 53.5% would have to be found in 2011/12 and 21.24% in 2012/13.

There were increased costs in children's placement and adult social care which added to the financial pressures. Although the Council had a gross expenditure of £360m the controllable base budget was £107m. It was therefore vital that the Council explored more efficient ways of working, took on a commissioning role for a wide range of services and reviewed the way that statutory functions were undertaken.

The confirmation of the Highway PFI was good news and represented a significant investment in the Island. Details were awaited however on the actual amount involved and any impact that this may have on the project.

The Committee was advised that a budget consultation workshop with a range of key stakeholders would be taking place on 18 November 2010. The Cabinet, at its meeting on 7 December 2010 would be considering a report on the Medium Term Budget Strategy 2011/14 and the future shape and structure of the Council. The Committee would be able to be advised at its own meeting on 16 December 2010 of the key issues arising from these.

RESOLVED :

THAT budget update be noted.

17. [Forward Plan](#)

Members were advised that the key issues contained in the Forward Plan for the period November 2010 to February 2011 related to the budget which they had already been made aware of during the previous item. The Chairman had discussed with officers adopting a different approach to this item for future agendas.

RESOLVED:

THAT the content of the Forward Plan for November 2010 to February 2011 be noted