



# Minutes

Name of meeting	<b>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
Date and time	<b>THURSDAY, 16 DECEMBER 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, Vanessa Churchman, Heather Humby, Julie Jones-Evans, Colin Richards, Ian Ward, Margaret Webster
Cabinet member (non-voting)	Cllr David Pugh
Officers Present	Mr Steve Beynon, Mr Dave Burbage, Mr Paul Thistlewood
Apologies	Cllrs Arthur Taylor, Gary Taylor
Other members (non voting)	Cllrs David Knowles, Roger Mazillius

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18. [Minutes](#)

RESOLVED :

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on [11 November 2010](#) be confirmed.

19. [Declarations of Interest](#)

There were no declarations at this time.

20. [Implications of the Revenue Support Grant Settlement](#)

The Chief Executive and Strategic Director of Resources together with the Leader of the council gave a powerpoint presentation on the implications of the revenue support grant (RSG) for the council that had been announced earlier that week.

The Committee was advised of the position that was anticipated following the announcement of the Comprehensive Spending Review, as was reported at its previous meeting, and the actual outcome arising from the provisional RSG settlement. This identified that the settlement was worse than that which had been predicted.

A breakdown of the provisional settlement, the government's definition of spending power and the council's projected increased costs was given. The effect of damping for 2011/12 and 2012/13 was illustrated

Key issues relating to grants for schools and health were outlined. There was no overall increase in the allocation for schools. Whilst there was £2.13m for joint working between health and social care this funding may not be transferred wholly over to the council and stay with the IOWNHS.

The Committee was also given a brief outline of some key parts of the Localism Bill.

The leader circulated a copy of a letter that he had sent to the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government regarding the council's provisional RSG settlement. This identified the council's view that the settlement was based upon an incorrect assessment of the council's baseline overall grant figure for 2010/11. This had resulted in an adverse impact on the damping proposed for 2011/12. This related specifically to the grant allocations for concessionary fares and local transport.

The cabinet had agreed a range of measures the previous week designed to address the anticipated financial situation. Other sources of funding outside of the formula grant distribution were being investigated.

**RESOLVED :**

THAT the support of the Committee be given to the approach made to the Department for Communities and Local Government in relation to the provisional Revenue Support Grant settlement for 2011/12.

21. **Quarter 2 Performance Management Report**

Members considered the relevant aspects of the quarterly performance and strategic risk management report for the period 1 July 2010 to 30 September 2010. It was noted that the percentage of freedom of information requests completed within the statutory timescale was still below target.

The Committee was assured that the council had the legal capacity to deal with the work that might arise from community groups or parish councils taking on the responsibility for operating facilities. There were ongoing discussions with both Portsmouth City Council and Southampton City Council on sharing expertise thereby creating additional capacity and reducing costs.

In discussing changes to performance management information members noted that there was still some uncertainty from the government as to the future content of the National Indicator Set. It had originally been believed that the overall number of indicators would be substantially reduced. Concerns had been expressed through the Local Government Association that the action plans for government departments included reference to a range of performance measures.

**RESOLVED :**

THAT the quarter 2 performance management report be noted.

22. **Forward Plan**

Following on from discussion at the last meeting about adopting a different approach to this item a revised format had been introduced. This was intended to help identify any relevant issues that the committee may wish to have further information on.

Members noted the Forward Plan for the period December 2010 to March 2011 contained items relating to the budget and performance management. These would feature on future agendas at the appropriate time.

**RESOLVED :**

THAT the content of the Forward Plan for December 2010 to March 2011 be noted.

23. **Members Question Time**

Councillor Barry raised a question about call in being disapplied in respect of decisions arising from the recent cabinet meeting. The chairman outlined the background to this.

CHAIRMAN