



Minutes

Name of meeting	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Date and time	THURSDAY, 17 MAY 2012 COMMENCING AT 5.00 PM
Venue	COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs Vanessa Churchman (Chairman), Jonathan Bacon, George Cameron, Heather Humby, Julie Jones-Evans, Dave Stewart, Ian Ward, Margaret Webster, Wayne Whittle
Officers Present	Ian Anderson, Steve Beynon, Barry Cooke, Dave Burbage, Chris Mathews, John Metcalfe, Paul Thistlewood
Cabinet members present	Cllrs George Brown, Dawn Cousins, Roger Mazillius, David Pugh

1. [Minutes](#)

RESOLVED :

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on [10 May 2012](#) be confirmed.

2. [Election of a Vice Chairman](#)

RESOLVED :

THAT Councillor Paul Fuller be elected vice chairman for the ensuing year.

3. [Declarations of Interest](#)

There were no declarations at this time.

4. [Future of directly provided social care services](#)

The strategic director for community wellbeing and social care gave a powerpoint presentation on the future of directly provided care services on the Island. This identified the services that were included in the scope, the current resources involved and the options under consideration.

There was a need to take action due to an increasing demand with decreasing resources. The existing arrangements had a limited change capacity and the Localism Act may affect the ability of the council to have control over any changes. The relative advantages and disadvantages of the options of

competitive tendering, social enterprise and local authority trading company were outlined to the panel. Members sought clarification on a number of matters and specific elements of each option. Arrangements for the safeguarding of clients were of paramount importance in any changes.

The timetable for the decision making process was explained. There would be an engagement process with staff, service users, members and partners leading to the cabinet identifying a preferred option at its August 2012 meeting. A consultation exercise would follow leading to a final decision by cabinet in December 2012 for implementation by April 2014.

The committee would be able to comment on each stage before it was submitted to cabinet.

RESOLVED :

THAT the options for the future of the council's directly provided care services be noted and a copy of the presentation be circulated to all members.

5. **Property capital receipts disposals programme 2012-2015**

At its meeting on 26 April 2012 the committee had requested to consider the proposed capital receipts programme for 2012-2015. This was prior to it being advertised as a delegated decision. Aspects of the draft programme were clarified including the different methods of disposal used and the reasons for sale. The importance of capital receipts in the delivery of the capital programme was highlighted. In addition it was noted that Department for Education approval was required when disposing of school sites.

Reference was made to the 26 April 2012 meeting when consideration was given to the Localism Act 2011 and the implications of the provisions on the community right to bid. The committee also noted the current arrangements for publicising the disposals programme. It was believed by members that to enhance the existing arrangements the programme should be sent to all town and parish councils. To assist in identifying which sites would be of interest to relevant local communities the committee thought that the electoral division should be included as it was on the forward plan of decisions.

RESOLVED:

- a. THAT officers check as to whether Sandown Town Hall should be shown on the programme.
- b. THAT the electoral division for each site should be shown on the programme.
- c. THAT the capital receipts disposal programme be circulated to all town and parish councils for information.

6. **Consideration of budget consultation process**

The Strategic Director for Resources gave a powerpoint presentation on the budget consultation process and also circulated a briefing note on proposals for the 2013/14 budget. This item arose from discussions by the committee at its 9 February 2012 meeting when considering engagement with stakeholders on the 2012/13 budget.

Whilst recognising that it was preferable to start the consultation process as early as possible this created difficulties in that settlement figures would not be known until December 2012. Based upon the experiences of previous years there were several areas where the process could be amended to enable a broader engagement with stakeholders. The role of members within their local community was an important opportunity to obtain views and opinions on budget issues.

The purpose of the process, stakeholders involvement, engagement methods and timing was discussed. The Strategic Director identified where improvements could be made to the process and the role of the committee in this. The means of involving town and parish councils in the budget process was debated. To attend individual meetings would not be practical due to the officer resources required. One way forward might be if a small number of cluster meetings were held. This could be co-ordinated in conjunction with the Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils.

RESOLVED:

- a. THAT the proposal to bring forward the timing of the public consultation to June 2012 to enable public comments and views, on a wider basis, to be fed into the initial round of budget discussion be supported.
- b. THAT the existing method of consultation for qualitative feedback, with the same consultative groups, the separate group for the business community be continued and with a separate session for council staff but in addition a consultation group of ward councillors, chaired by members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, be held to ensure that the feedback gathered from their local communities are fed back.
- c. THAT the budget simulator be utilised earlier in the year, June 2012, and promoted widely with the content at a broader level to enable maximum input and that this mirrors the content explored with focus groups.
- d. THAT the feedback gathered from the qualitative and quantitative exercises be fed into the budget review report to cabinet and full council in September 2012 and is also published in the September 2012 issue of One Island so that final feedback from the public can be sought by October to feed into the final budget decisions.

- e. THAT the focus of the budget consultation be on the community's spending priorities and that this involve a possible rise in council tax against a possible reduction in investment together with the option for maintaining or increasing other charges should more income be required to invest in priority areas.
- f. THAT officers discuss with the Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils possible arrangements for cluster meetings of town and parish councils to discuss the 2013/14 budget.

7. **Corporate priority performance 2012/13**

The committee was advised of a review being undertaken on the performance indicators for the reporting of corporate plan priorities for 2012/13. It was noted that there would be eight new measures dealing with the corporate centre element of the priority of delivering budget savings through changed service provision. In addition there would be one additional measure dealing with the environmental health inspections.

RESOLVED :

THAT the proposed performance indicators for the reporting of corporate plan priorities for 2012/13 be noted.

8. **Comments on Items due to be considered by the Cabinet on 22 May 2012**

The committee were made aware of the items included on the agenda for the cabinet meeting being held the following week.

The chairman then advised the committee that she had been consulted on dis-applying the call in provisions in respect of the decision due to be taken by the cabinet at an extraordinary meeting on 29 May 2012. This concerned the highway PFI preferred bidder and final business case. The chairman had discussed the matter with the PFI Programme Director and had been made aware of the timescales involved. She sought the views of members of the committee before submitting her views. The committee was fully supportive of the reasons given as to why the call in provisions should be dis-applied.

RESOLVED :

THAT agenda items for the cabinet meetings on 22 May 2012 and 29 May 2012 be noted.

9. **Forward Plan and consultations**

Members noted that the forward plan for the period June 2012 to September 2012 would shortly be published. The committee would have the opportunity of debating agenda items prior to these being considered by the cabinet now that it met the week prior to it.

RESOLVED :

THAT the matter be noted.

10. [Progress report on recommendations and outcomes](#)

The committee was made aware of progress on its previous recommendations and decisions.

RESOLVED :

THAT the report be noted.

CHAIRMAN