



# Minutes

Name of meeting	<b>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
Date and time	<b>THURSDAY, 23 JULY 2009 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM</b>
Venue	<b>COMMITTEE ROOM ONE, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT</b>
Present	Cllrs Vanessa Churchman (Chair), Jonathan Bacon, George Cameron, John Hobart, Julie Jones-Evans, Colin Richards, Ian Ward, Margaret Webster, David Whittaker, William Wyatt-Millington
Officers Present	Dave Burbage, Mark Howell, Stuart Love, Heidi Marshall, Julie Martin, Paul Thistlewood
Also Present	Cllr George Brown
Apologies	Cllrs Reg Barry, Chris Welsford

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1. **Minutes**

RESOLVED :

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on [11 May 2009](#) be confirmed.

2. **Thanks**

Members requested that thanks to Mrs Sue Poston and Mr Charles Rogers, previous co-opted members on the Committee, recorded. The Committee also asked that the Association of Local Councils should be thanked.

3. **Election of Vice Chairman**

Councillor Ian Ward was formally proposed and seconded as Vice Chairman. There being no further nominations it was :

RESOLVED :

THAT Councillor Ian Ward be elected Vice Chairman for the ensuing year.

4. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations at this stage.

5. **Quarterly Performance, Risk and Strategic Programme Management Report – Quarter 4 2008/09**

Members considered the report that was submitted to Cabinet at its meeting on 7 July 2009.

In raising various points the Committee was provided with an appropriate response as follows :

- There were no substantiating figures for the number of days lost to sickness - The numbers were not available when the report went to the Cabinet meeting. They were now being collected as a matter of course.
- The time for repairs to be undertaken to highways - This reflected the service standards by which contractors were expected to respond.
- The relative cost between eco toilets and normal toilets - The building of eco toilets was more expensive but brought long term benefits.
- Progress with Ryde Gateway - There were 3 key areas which still required clarification by Network Rail. A report would be taken to the September 2009 Cabinet meeting. There were also some implications regarding the lease and asset protection.
- The forecast for Capital spending was £44m, but only £22m had been spent – This was due to an ongoing issue re capacity to deliver the capital programme. There had been an assumption that Year 1 would spend heavily, but performance was low in comparison to the revised programme. There had not been a sufficiently robust framework around project management but a challenge process and training around project management had been introduced to overcome this.
- Proposed expenditure on highway works - Footway works were given a priority ranking. Roadworks were started in May 2009 and 25% of the capital programme had already been spent. A list of these would be circulated to all members by the Cabinet member.
- Gasification plant - Electricity from this was being exported to the National Grid.
- The programme status of project delivery - the figures would be more specific by the next meeting.
- Effect of BSIP on performance figures - It would not impact on performance data but would on the capital programme.
- Implementation of BSIP - A progress report would be brought to the next Overview and Scrutiny meeting in October 2009 after the Project Board had met.

- Target with regard to delivery and budget - A Cabinet Board had been set up and would be reporting to the Cabinet in September 2009, the report could then be taken to the 8 October 2009 Overview and Scrutiny meeting.
- Work by Terry Farrell, Design Champion - Contributed directly to the Island Plan process and key regeneration areas. Possibility of a second piece of work being commissioned.
- Council's carbon emissions - An Energy Manager had been appointed.
- Response time in dealing with complaints to the Ombudsman being in excess of the target that had been set - Complaints were monitored on a monthly basis. The process on how they were dealt with had now been improved. There were fewer than in previous years.
- Pan Urban Regeneration - The developer had pulled out but the project had considerably extended in size since its inception. The project was going through the planning process which would then make it more attractive to a developer once full permission had been granted.

**RESOLVED :**

THAT a progress report on the implementation of BSIP be submitted to the Committee at its meeting on 6 October 2009.

**6. Financial Management Report for Quarter 4 (to 31 March 2009) – Outturn Position for 2008/09**

Members were advised of the Council's final financial position at the end of the 2008/09 financial year.

Although the Council had been advised in November 2008 that there may be a significant overspend it had in fact ended with a slight underspend. The Council's reserves and balances were generally in a healthy position.

It was noted that there had been a significant overspend on Adult Services which was down to three main difficulties :

- (i) 25% of the island's population was above the age of 65.
- (ii) Monitoring expenditure. The introduction of BSIP would have an impact on being able to control the budget.
- (iii) Continuing adult care costs.

Work was ongoing to identify efficiency savings for the next financial year.

The Committee referred to its previous recommendation relating to reviewing the budget consultation process. This was an area that would benefit from some work by the Committee to see where the process could be enhanced.

**RESOLVED:**

THAT the Committee undertake a short enquiry into the budget consultation process.

**7. The Call In Procedure**

Members were made aware of the call in procedure. Four members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee were able to call in either a members delegated or Cabinet decision but only after they had discussed concerns with the cabinet member why they believed the decision they had made was wrong. The Scrutiny Panels were not able to call in decisions. A call in should rarely take place.

**RESOLVED :**

THAT the call in procedure be noted.

**8. Forward Plan**

The Forward Plan for the period September 2009 to December 2009 was circulated at the meeting.

Members raised the issue of the Islandwide speed limit and were advised that it was a national requirement for all Local Authority's to review the speed limits within their areas.

CHAIRMAN