



Minutes

Name of meeting	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Date and time	THURSDAY, 25 OCTOBER 2012 COMMENCING AT 5.00 PM
Venue	COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs Vanessa Churchman (Chairman), George Cameron, Paul Fuller, Heather Humby, Julie Jones-Evans, Ian Ward, Margaret Webster, Wayne Whittle
Officers Present	Steve Beynon, Simon Bryant, Stuart Love, Chris Mathews, Jenifer Smith, Dave Stillwell, Paul Thistlewood
Apologies	Cllrs Jonathan Bacon, Gary Taylor
Cabinet members present	Cllr Roger Mazillius

25. [Minutes](#)

RESOLVED:

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on [6 September 2012](#) be confirmed.

26. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations at this time.

27. **Public Question Time** ([Recording 1](#) & [2](#))

A written question had been submitted by Mr Matthew Martin in relation to the budgets together with a supplementary question on council tax collection. A response to these was given by the chairman. ([PQ19/12](#))

A question was asked by Mr Steve Goodman, an Island resident, relating to monitoring action taken by planning enforcement in relation to the former Frank James Hospital site at East Cowes. The chairman advised that this was a matter that came within the remit of the Economy and Environment Scrutiny Panel. The Strategic Director for Economy and Environment indicated that he would make the relevant information available to Mr Goodman.

Tanya Rebel, an Island resident, asked a question regarding the ability to make an application under the new community right to bid provisions. The Strategic Director for Economy and Environment stated that a community group could make such an application.

28. [Waste strategy update](#)

The Strategic Director for Economy and Environment, together with the Waste Project Manager, gave a [powerpoint presentation](#) on the waste contract re-let and waste strategy.

An outline was given of progress with the procurement process and the development of the outline business case (OBC). It was intended that a member briefing would be arranged for mid January 2013 with the OBC being submitted to cabinet on 12 February 2013. A range of options would be contained within the OBC including lengths of contract and separate contracts for collection and disposal arrangements. The draft waste strategy would be subject to a consultation exercise after the OBC had been agreed.

The committee was advised that due to the likely level of investment required in providing the necessary infrastructure required for disposal a 25 year contract was seen as the norm. Contracts for collection would be for a shorter duration. Members raised concerns that they previously understood from previous forward plans that the draft waste strategy would be submitted to the cabinet on 17 December 2012. This meeting had been changed to 8 January 2013 but the item removed from that agenda. The Strategic Director explained that it was not likely that the draft strategy provided to members earlier in the year would have any major changes. The OBC would also include options contained in the draft strategy. The availability of the cabinet member was also another factor as when the cabinet could consider the report on this matter.

The committee sought clarification as to interim arrangements that would be required from the end of the existing contract in October 2015 and the commencement of a new one. There was the possibility of the interim arrangements being included as part of the new contract.

Consideration would be given to the procurement process including commercial waste. This might assist in making the level of investment required more attractive. The council would change from seeing waste as a cost to it being a resource whereby energy or an income could be derived.

The committee believed that given the importance of the waste strategy and the future delivery of this there should be a discussion on this at full council. Councillor Mazillius, who was representing the leader, indicated that he would advise the relevant cabinet member and leader of this view.

RESOLVED:

THAT the current situation regarding the draft waste strategy and outline business case be noted.

29. **Transfer of public health to the council**

The Director of Public Health and the Associate Director of Public Health gave a [powerpoint presentation](#) on the transition of the public health team to the council.

The function of public health was outlined, its current vision, the reason for the change, the outcomes framework and service priorities. It was noted that public health had a number of mandated programmes which it had to deliver. This ensured an equality of access to services across the country. Examples of joint working with other council services and related partners were given.

The progress with the transition was on target and a project board was overseeing the local elements involved. Public health would be helping to support the Health and Wellbeing Board in the development and implementation of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and the health and wellbeing strategy.

Members were made aware of steps being taken to ensure that public health would be seen as a core function across all directorates. This would assist in aligning health and wellbeing objectives with other council objectives. A vision for public health was being developed and would be submitted to the cabinet at its meeting on 8 January 2013. The expertise within the service would also assist in the council preparing both health and equality impact assessments. Briefings would be arranged in the future to assist both members and officers on key topics.

Funding for public health was in accordance with a national formula. This was under review alongside that for other council services. Members considered that the future funding of public health should be looked at a later meeting. The committee believed that it would be beneficial if at a later date each scrutiny panel looked at the impact of public health on services within their remit.

The committee was advised of how public health aspects could be fed into the planning and licensing processes. An outline was also given of the existing collaboration with other partners and agencies at a local, regional and national level.

RESOLVED:

THAT the progress with the transition of public health to the council be noted.

30. [Comments on items due to be considered by the cabinet on 30 October 2012](#)

The committee considered the agenda items due to be discussed by the cabinet the following week. With regard to the report on the community right to bid members clarified a number of issues relating to the draft policy and how nominations would be processed. It was thought that once the policy had been agreed it should be brought to the attention of town and parish councils. In addition a briefing session for members and town and parish councils might also assist with a greater understanding of how the policy would operate.

RESOLVED:

THAT consideration be given to arranging a briefing session on the policy relating to the community right to bid for elected members and town and parish councils.

31. **Forward Plan and consultations**

(a) [Forward plan](#)

The committee was advised that due to the change in date of the cabinet a delegated decision would be made in respect of the quarter 2 performance and finance report. This would enable the scrutiny panels to have this information at their meetings at the end of November 2012.

The chairman raised concerns as to the number of items that were being slipped or delayed. The Chief Executive indicated how items on the plan were managed and the main reasons why items were changed from the originally anticipated date given. The change in the requirements for a forward plan was also explained. One difficulty encountered had been where the government had changed the date for releasing the local government finance settlement would be announced. Although this would mean that a number of decisions would have to be taken at the January and February 2013 meetings this necessary to ensure that the overall resource implications of these could properly assessed.

With regard to the various delegated decisions due to be taken on community/parish plans these would be delayed to take into account changed circumstances.

RESOLVED:

THAT the background to the need to delay a number of items on the forward be noted.

(b) [Consultations](#)

The Healthwatch consultation had produced a high response which was now being analysed. The music service consultation had identified support for the establishment of a trust as the preferred way forward and this was being explored further.

Consultation on the draft health and wellbeing strategy for 2013-2016 had commenced that week.

RESOLVED:

THAT the current position on consultations be noted.

CHAIRMAN