



Minutes

Name of meeting	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Date and time	THURSDAY, 3 JANUARY 2013 COMMENCING AT 5.00 PM
Venue	COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs Vanessa Churchman (Chairman), Jonathan Bacon, George Cameron, Rodney Downer, Julie Jones-Evans, Roger Mazillius, Ian Ward, Ivor Warlow, Margaret Webster, Wayne Whittle
Officers Present	Steve Beynon, Dave Burbage, Paul Thistlewood
Cabinet members present	Cllrs George Brown, David Pugh

32. [Minutes](#)

RESOLVED :

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on [25 October 2012](#) be confirmed.

33. [Declarations of Interest](#)

There were no declarations at this time.

34. [2013/14 financial settlement and updated budget position](#)

The committee discussed the report due to be considered by the cabinet on 8 January 2013 in relation to the 2013/14 financial settlement. The strategic director of resources gave a powerpoint presentation which highlighted key headlines arising from the provisional settlement together with key elements of the localisation of council tax support.

Members noted that the figures were still provisional and in some instances no details had been forthcoming from the government as these were still being worked on.

An outline was given of the impact of the local retention of business rates, national spending limits and resourcing, main grant changes, start up funding, the council's resource base, revenue budget forecasts 2011/12 to 2016/17 and potential balancing of the council's budget in 2013/14.

The committee was advised that the 2013/14 budget could be balanced through continuation of the existing strategies. The budget for 2014/15 and beyond required significant reductions and would involve the council looking at radically changing the services that it delivered. Although reserves were healthy these should not be utilised for funding on-going commitments.

In debating the item the following points were raised :-

- Demographics had been taken into account in the council's future revenue budget requirements;
- Existing savings strategy would not result in meeting the predicted budget gap;
- Management structures can be reduced if more services delivered in partnership with other organisations;
- Need to ensure that sufficient reserves and balances in place if unexpected additional demands placed on services such as care for the elderly;
- Whether the changing face of service delivery would require the same number of elected members in future years;
- Important that the public were made fully aware at every opportunity of the budget situation arising from the reduced financial settlement received from central government.
- Need for clear commentary on all service headings to be included in appendix related to the revenue summary for 2011/12.
- The delay in the review of the parking strategy and the under recovery of parking income.

The committee then discussed the key issues relating to localisation of council tax support including the transfer of risk, the local scheme being proposed, the impact of the scheme on the council tax base and the council tax requirement and the broad potential financial impact for 2013/14.

It was noted that there were 68,682 properties shown on the valuation list as at October 2012. Of these approximately 23,500 were subject to the single person discount. There were just over 3,000 second homes.

RESOLVED :

- a) THAT where possible appropriate commentary be provided as background to over and under spends shown in the revenue summary for 2012/13 as shown in appendix 1.
- b) THAT clarification be sought on the capital programme expenditure for highways maintenance post 13/14 PFI contribution as shown in appendix 5

35. **[Comments on items due to be considered by the cabinet on 8 January 2013](#)**

The committee gave consideration to the reports due to be considered by the cabinet at its meeting the following week.

On the relocation of special education needs and alternative provision service members noted the revised proposals following the consultation that had been undertaken.

The harbour authority activities annual report was welcome and gave clarity over the activities in Newport harbour and Ventnor Haven.

With regard to the future of the Island's records and heritage strategy members clarified the future revenue funding implications of the use of the Guildhall, Newport for the housing of public records held by the council. It was indicated that this would be a starting point for the delivery of a wider island heritage strategy. Members noted the principles behind the intention and the longer term development envisaged following a series of heritage workshops held in September 2012.

The public health vision for the Isle of Wight was supported and followed on from the committee's deliberations at its October 2012 meeting. The transfer would enable the council to drive public health priorities as part of the delivery of other services.

The report on the creation of a joint venture company to deliver the Solent Ocean Energy Centre (SOEC) was discussed. The council's contribution and future involvement in the project was explained. The future potential of its impact on the Island's economy was highlighted.

RESOLVED :

THAT the cabinet ensure that all heritage groups, together with town and parish councils, are invited to become involved in the development of the Island's Heritage Strategy.

36. **Forward Plan and consultations**

Members noted the forward plan for the period January 2013 to April 2013. In addition there were no consultations of specific interest to the committee.

CHAIRMAN