

Minutes

Name of meeting	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Date and time	THURSDAY, 3 FEBRUARY 2011 COMMENCING AT 5.00 PM
Venue	COMMITTEE ROOM ONE, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs Wayne Whittle (Chairman), George Cameron, Vanessa Churchman, John Hobart, John Howe, Heather Humby, Julie Jones-Evans, Ian Ward, Margaret Webster
Cabinet members (non-voting)	Cllrs George Brown, David Pugh
Officers Present	Mr Steve Beynon, Mr Dave Burbage, Mr Chris Mathews, Mr Paul Thistlewood
Apologies	Cllr Gary Taylor
Other members (non voting)	Cllrs Dawn Cousins, Ian Stephens

24. [Minutes](#)

RESOLVED :

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on [16 December 2010](#) be confirmed.

25. [Declarations of Interest](#)

There were no declarations at this time.

26. [2011/12 – 2013/14 Budget Strategy](#)

The Committee considered the report that was to be considered by the cabinet on 8 February 2011. It was reminded that reports had previously been submitted in relation to the comprehensive spending review and the implications of the revenue support grant settlement.

The leader referred to the deputation to the Local Government Minister relating to aspects of the council's settlement for 2011/12. He was disappointed that this had not been successful in obtaining any additional grant or recalculation of the formula used. It was understood that some authorities were looking at the possibility of mounting a legal challenge on the grant settlement.

The Chief Executive highlighted the budget reductions that the council had to achieve in 2011/12 and 2012/13. It was intended to protect front line services and wherever possible and a major proportion of the savings would come from changes to the management structure, transformation and procurement. There were on-going discussions with Portsmouth and Southampton City Councils on sharing services such as school support and standards, public health, planning, legal and ICT infrastructure.

Members were made aware of steps that the council had already taken as part of the current medium term financial strategy to reduce expenditure. This included implementation of the transformation programme, vacancy management and the asset management plan. In addition an outline was given of service areas where investment was being made.

To ensure that tight controls were maintained on expenditure regular meetings would be held involving Strategic Directors and cabinet members and there would be quarterly reporting to cabinet. This information would also be made available to committee and panels.

The chairman of each of the scrutiny panels then briefed the committee on the key outcomes arising from their meetings held that week. The Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel had no major concerns or recommendations for submission to the cabinet but was pleased to note that the revenue expenditure for children's social care had been protected. There were two recommendations arising from both the Health and Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel and the Economic and Environment Scrutiny Panel.

The full implications of the Localism Bill were not fully known but the Island should be well placed to develop community leadership due to it being totally emparished.

In looking at the budget proposals that were included within the cabinet report the committee was given an outline of a range of options that were looked at but discounted.

RESOLVED :

- 1 That the following recommendations arising from the scrutiny panels be supported and passed onto the cabinet :
 - i. Health and Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel :-
 - a) The adult social care expenditure and income should be monitored robustly throughout the year, and in particular the outcome of the changes in charges.
 - b) Parish or town councils should be consulted before the disposal of any archive or museum item.
 - ii. Economy and Environment Scrutiny Panel :-
 - a) That consideration should be given to the re-introduction of an all island residents parking permit.

b) That the panel reinforces the local concerns being raised about the introduction of a charge for pedestrians using the Cowes floating bridge.

2 That the Committee and Panels will have a standing agenda item to challenge the Cabinet members and strategic directors on the budget to ensure that this is on target and front line services are being effectively delivered.

27. **Forward Plan**

The committee was advised of items of relevance as contained within the forward plan for the period February – May 2011.

RESOLVED :

THAT the forward plan be noted.

28. **Members Question Time**

Councillor Churchman asked a question in relation to the risk register and the status for achieving a reduction in carbon emissions. The Chief Executive explained that this included a range of actions which were not under the direct control of the council.

CHAIRMAN