



Minutes

Name of meeting	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Date and time	THURSDAY, 7 FEBRUARY 2013 COMMENCING AT 5.00 PM
Venue	COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs Vanessa Churchman (Chairman), Barry Abraham, Jonathan Bacon, Paul Fuller, Julie Jones-Evans, Roger Mazillius, Ian Ward, Ivor Warlow, Margaret Webster,
Cabinet members present	Cllrs George Brown, Dawn Cousins, Edward Giles, David Pugh
Officers Present	Mr Steve Beynon, Mr Dave Burbage, Mr Stuart Love, Mr Chris Mathews, Mr John Metcalfe, Mr Paul Thistlewood
Apologies	Cllr George Cameron

37. [Minutes](#)

RESOLVED :

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on [3 January 2013](#) be confirmed.

38. [Declarations of Interest](#)

There were no declarations at this time.

39. [Public Question Time](#)

Ms Tanja Rebel of Cowes asked a question in relation to the council policy on the number of supermarkets on the Island. The chairman indicated that this matter was contained within the Core Strategy and was a matter for the Economy and Environment Scrutiny Panel.

40. [Medium Term Budget Strategy 2013/14 – 2015/16 and Council Tax Setting 2013/14](#)

The leader of the council presented the report that was due to be considered by the cabinet on 12 February 2013 on the budget strategy for 2013/14 to 2015/16. He reminded members of the actions taken with regard to the 2012/13 budget a number of which would continue in subsequent years.

Additional resources had been made available for priorities identified in the Corporate Plan. This had required reductions in spending elsewhere to ensure a balanced budget. Reserves and balances were in a healthy state. Members noted that a small number of amendments to the settlement were still being made by the government.

The panel discussed how the budget should be underpinned by up to date strategies. It was noted that the Economy and Environment Scrutiny Panel had discussed its wish to be involved in reviewing the parking strategy. The ability of the council to also provide pump priming for initiatives such as pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programmes was seen as important in supporting the local economy.

RESOLVED :

- (i) THAT in undertaking the review of the parking strategy all council members and relevant stakeholders such as the Chamber of Commerce and Small Business Association, should be involved in the consultation process.
- (ii) THAT in noting that the panels have accepted the budget for services that come within their remits it is noted that the Health and Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel will be closely monitoring the increased budget for supporting older and vulnerable residents and will closely monitor that this is sufficient to meet the increased needs.
- (iii) THAT the committee notes the content of the budget report, and associated recommendations, due to be submitted to the cabinet on 12 February 2013.

41. **[Comments on items due to be considered by the cabinet on 12 February 2013](#)**

Members discussed the reports that were due to be considered by the cabinet the following week.

The project business case for the municipal waste contract had been briefly discussed by the Economy and Environment Scrutiny Panel the previous evening. Although the current member review board on this project did have a non executive member on it the panel felt that after the elections in May 2013 consideration should be given to this being a member who was not from the majority party. This view was supported by the committee.

Members were advised that the actual decision was for the cabinet to take. Given the scale and importance of the project the committee suggested that a similar process to that adopted for other major projects, such as school re-organisation and highways PFI, the item should be debated at full council so that the actions could be endorsed.

With regard to the quarter 3 performance report issues relating to on line transactions, staffing capacity and skills, completion of staff personal development reviews, the national review of fire authorities, school inspection

framework, safeguarding vulnerable adults and any planning implications for the delivery of the proposed new waste contract.

The item on the Ofsted inspection on safeguarding had been debated by the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel at its meeting on 5 February 2013. In discussing the local government ombudsman's report on a complaint against the council, members noted the actions that had been implemented.

RESOLVED :

THAT when the member review board on the waste project is reformed after May 2013 consideration should be given to the appointment of a member not from the majority group and who was not on the cabinet.

42. **Forward Plan and Consultations**

The forward plan for February to May 2013 contained a delegated decision on the capital disposals programme for 2013/2014. In previous years the committee had discussed the programme before a decision was taken. It was noted that the decision relating to the procurement strategy had been moved to June 2013.

With regard to consultations the responses received to the draft health and wellbeing strategy were being analysed with full council agreeing the final strategy in March 2013.

RESOLVED :

THAT the proposed capital disposals programme for 2013/14 be brought to the committee for consideration and comment.

CHAIRMAN