



# Minutes

Name of meeting	<b>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
Date and time	<b>9 FEBRUARY 2012 COMMENCING AT 5.00 PM</b>
Venue	<b>COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT</b>
Present	Cllrs Wayne Whittle (Chairman), George Cameron, Vanessa Churchman, Paul Fuller, Stuart Hutchinson, Heather Humby, Julie Jones-Evans, Gary Taylor, Ian Ward, Margaret Webster
Cabinet Members	Cllrs Barry Abraham, Roger Mazillius, David Pugh
Other Members present	Cllr Geoff Lumley
Officers Present	Ian Anderson, Dave Burbage, Davina Fiore, Stuart Love, Chris Mathews, John Metcalfe, Paul Thistlewood

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27. **Minutes**

**RESOLVED :**

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on [8 December 2011](#) be confirmed.

28. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations at this time.

29. **2012/13 – 2014/15 Budget Strategy, Council Tax Setting and Corporate Plan/Medium Term Financial Strategy**

(Cllr Pugh declared a personal interest in this item as his wife was a Council employee)

The Leader gave an overview of the Council's budget position and the proposed strategy for 2012/13 – 2014/15. He referred to the challenges that the Council's finances faced in future years, the areas where additional investment was being made and the areas where savings were proposed. The Committee was advised of the level of savings that had been achieved in 2011/12 and the use of an under expenditure to fund specific one off initiatives.

There was discussion on the various elements of the proposed budget for supporting the economic development and regeneration of the Island. A

number of matters were identified where the Committee felt that specific reports should be presented to the relevant scrutiny panel.

The Committee indicated that there appeared to be a continued lack of public understanding on the use of one off expenditure and also why capital money cannot be used for revenue purposes. This would assist in trying to overcome misconceptions about the Council's finances.

Members sought assurances as to the inclusion of safeguards in the contract for the Highway PFI regarding any future change in the ownership of the company who was successful in winning the contract.

Members discussed aspects of the budget consultation process which involved a series of workshops to which key stakeholders were invited and the online budget simulator. Whilst recognising the importance of these and the outcomes it was thought that ways of improving the level of engagement should be looked at. The role of elected members in this process should also be reviewed.

The Chairmen of the scrutiny panels reported on the key elements discussed at their respective meetings earlier that week together with the recommendations and outcomes.

**RESOLVED :**

- (a) THAT the use of one off expenditure, together with the difference between revenue and capital expenditure, should be better communicated to the public.
- (b) THAT a regular monitoring report be submitted to the relevant scrutiny panel on the pre-apprentice and apprenticeship schemes.
- (c) THAT a report be submitted to the relevant scrutiny panel on the proposed Jobs Fair and its outcomes.
- (d) THAT a report be made to the relevant scrutiny panel on the submissions made by Town and Parish Councils in connection with the Economic Improvement Fund.
- (e) THAT the Committee look at the budget consultation process to see if the level of engagement can be improved.
- (f) THAT the recommendations made by each of the scrutiny panels be supported.

**30. Comments on Items due to be considered by the Cabinet on 14 February 2012**

- (i) [Outcomes of the Eligibility Threshold Judicial Review Decision](#)

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Housing and Community Safety summarised the report that was to be considered by the Cabinet

on the implications of the recent judicial review on the Council's adult social care proposals. The background to the initial proposals, the consultation processes, budget planning and developing case law leading to policy changes was outlined. The financial impact of the decision, together with the costs of the judicial review action, was detailed.

The Cabinet would be recommended to continue to meet adult social care needs assessed as "critical" and "substantial". In addition it would also confirm the actions taken in revising the consultation strategy and guidance on equality impact assessments and implementing training for staff.

RESOLVED :

THAT the report be noted.

(ii) [Other Cabinet items](#)

The Committee took the opportunity of looking at the other agenda items due to be considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 14 February 2012. Clarification was given on the performance measures for waste as contained in the quarterly performance and finance report. The scrutiny panels would be considering the respective elements of the report at their next meetings. In addition the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel had been involved in discussions about the adoption strategy and action plan. It would also have a report at its next meeting on the Children's Social Work Service Improvements.

RESOLVED :

THAT the items due to be considered by the Cabinet on 14 February 2012 be noted.

31. [Forward Plan and Consultations](#)

(Stuart Love declared a personal interest during this item as his wife was employed by Liz Earle)

Members were made aware of relevant items in the Forward Plan for the period February to May 2012. With regard to the delegated decision on the disposal of land at Ryde Business Park to a special purchaser it was noted that an appropriate covenant would be included should the whole site not be utilised.

There were no current consultations of relevance to the Committee.

RESOLVED :

THAT the matters be noted.

32. **Progress Report on Recommendations**

The Committee was made aware of progress on its previous recommendations and decisions.

**RESOLVED :**

THAT the progress report be noted.

CHAIRMAN