



Notes of evidence

Name of meeting

POLICY COMMISSION FOR BUSINESS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Date and time

WEDNESDAY, 29 AUGUST 2007 AT 6.00 PM

Venue

COMMITTEE ROOM 1, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT

Commission

Cllrs Jonathan Fitzgerald-Bond (Commissioner), Henry Adams
William Burt, John Hobart, Lora Peacey-Wilcox

Cabinet

Cabinet Secretary

Other Councillors

Cllr Arthur Taylor

Officers Present

Mr Stuart Love, Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods
Mr Jonathan Baker, Committee Services
Miss Andrea Lisseter, Overview and Scrutiny Team
Mr Rob Owen, Head of Consumer Protection

Stakeholders

Mr Stuart Pearce; Pig farmer, Mr Mathew Legge; County Secretary
NFU, Mrs Sue Brownrigg; Poultry farmer

Apologies

Cllrs Brian Mosdell, Charles Hancock, Alan Wells

1. **Notes of Evidence**

1.1 The Notes of Evidence from the previous meeting held on [1 August 2007](#) were agreed.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

2.1 Cllrs Burt, Hobart and Peacey-Wilcox all declared personal interests as they knew people in the Farming Industry. Cllr Adams declared a personal interest because he sold Island Meat produce.

3. **Multi Storey Car Parks**

3.1 The Scoping Document had now been passed by Cabinet and Senior Officers. The Commission hoped to assist to ease traffic in commuter areas where parking had proved to be very difficult. The Commission would look at examples of multi storey car parks in other areas including Winchester.

3.2 The Scoping Document was formally approved by the Commission

4. **Island Abattoir Feasibility Study**

- 4.1 Mr Robin Oulton of Vectis Food and Crafts who was due to appear to give evidence, was unable to do so and would be invited back at a later date.
- 4.2 The Commission felt that there was a substantial desire for the Island to obtain an abattoir, but that it should be run by professionals and not solely farmers.
- 4.3 The Commission would gather information from as many sources as possible i.e., farmers, haulage companies and retailers.
- 4.4 The Commission was reminded that the Scoping Document categorically stated that the council was not in a position to offer funding for the proposal but merely help and advice.
- 4.5 Mr Mathew Legge, County Secretary of the NFU, answered various questions from members and senior officers.
- 4.6 The Commission were informed that statistics of livestock leaving the Island to be slaughtered at mainland abattoirs could be obtained from DEFRA. Each animal could be traced by means of an individual passport.
- 4.7 The Head of Consumer Protection advised that the Council kept records of some movements as well which also included the disposal of livestock.
- 4.8 Mr Legge advised the Commission that the success of an abattoir on the Island would also depend a lot on the involvement of local and national retail outlets large and small. Some national outlets had already shown support for local produce with the Co-op currently supplying 14 items of local produce.
- 4.9 Mr Pearce and Mr Legge stated that marketing would be a key factor in the success of an abattoir and the subsequent sale of meat. If marketed correctly and effectively, Island meat could also be as successful off the Island as on it. Niche markets could also be identified such as local restaurants, schools, prisons etc. However this would have to be a profitable enterprise for the abattoir to be a commercial success.
- 4.10 Mr Legge said that the majority of farmers would support an abattoir as it would provide a service to their own markets.
- 4.11 Mr Pearce and Mr Legge stated that farmers would have no problem in meeting increased demands and certain cuts could be supplied to certain outlets with the cheaper cuts targeting schools, prisons etc and the more expensive cuts targeting restaurants.
- 4.12 Mr Legge advised that there were more than 160 members of the NFU on the Isle of Wight with 30-40% of farmers outside membership. The next NFU meeting in mid September would address the abattoir as an agenda item.

4.13 Mr Pearce felt that an abattoir alone would not provide a boost for the Pig Market on the Island as transportation costs for feed would still have to be met. However, if the marketing was good, success could follow.

4.14 The commissioner stated that an incinerator would not be council funded.

4.15 The Scoping Document was formally approved by the Commission.