

PAPER A

NOTES OF EVIDENCE

Meeting	Policy Commission for Business and Infrastructure	
Ref	E.PC. 06/06/07	
Date	6 June 2007	
Time	18.00 hours	
Place	Committee Room 1, County Hall, Newport, Isle of Wight	
Purpose of meeting	Formal Public Meeting	
Attendance	Commission	Cllrs Jonathan Fitzgerald-Bond (Commissioner), Henry Adams, Charles Hancock, John Hobart, Brian Mosdell
	Cabinet	Cllr David Pugh
	Cabinet Secretariat	
	Other Councillors	Cllrs Geoff Lumley
	Officers	Mr Stuart Love, Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods Mr Dave Moore, Planning Projects Team Leader Miss April West, Overview & Scrutiny Team Mr Barry Cooke, Corporate Property Manager Mrs Amanda Thomas, Administrative Officer
	Stake holders	
	Apologies	Cllrs William Burt, Lora Peacey-Wilcox, Alan Wells
Agenda Items		
1 To agree the notes of the previous meeting	1.1 The notes of the meeting held on 4 April 2007 were agreed.	
2 To invite Members to declare any interest they might have in the matters on the agenda	2.1 Cllr Brian Mosdell declared a personal interest in item 3, Paper B, as he knew some of the people taking part in the investigation.	
3 To consider the blue paper on the Island Ports Sustainability Study - E01/06	<p>3.1 The Commission received a PowerPoint presentation from Cllr Charlie Hancock, detailing the wide-ranging investigation into the sustainability of Island ports, the findings, and the recommendations.</p> <p>3.2 It was noted that there was a typographical error in the Blue Paper at 5.5.4.1, where the figure should read £3 million (not £33 million).</p> <p>3.3 Members were reminded of the scope and the purpose of the enquiry. The importance of the Island Plan to the Isle of Wight Council and Island residents and the future need for</p>	

	<p>sustainable provision of cross Solent travel.</p> <p>3.4 The Commission noted that the existing ferry terminals needed further investment to provide greater capacity, but suggested that any changes or expansions must be undertaken in parallel with an environmental impact, which had been a main concern with residents.</p> <p>3.5 Members were advised the priority was car/vehicle ferries. The existing foot passenger services were sustainable and also had capacity for further growth.</p> <p>3.6 The need to spread usage of car ferries had been identified, encouraging tourists in particular to be more flexible with travel plans, spreading demand across the seasons.</p> <p>3.7 It was also suggested that ferry passengers should have access to better information/communication on route to the ferry terminals.</p> <p>3.8 Members noted that a Quality Freight Partnership had recently been established to address issues surrounding freight distribution and storage on the Island. The Partnership would consider storage and the capacity of marshalling yards, in order to understand how improvements could be made.</p> <p>3.9 Members noted that currently no cheap car rental facility existed on the Island. It was envisaged that such a facility might encourage tourists to travel on foot to the Island.</p> <p>3.10 Members raised concerns about access to car ferry terminals, noting that existing terminals had been established many years ago and therefore were not now fit for purpose, particularly given the current volumes of traffic.</p> <p>3.11 The Commission also questioned the current quality of public transport service. A good quality service could reduce the volume of traffic on Island roads in general, as well as at ferry terminals. Park and Ride schemes similar to Cowes and St John's Station in Ryde could also be investigated.</p> <p>3.12 Members were keen to support alternative port facilities and noted that permission had already been granted for an extra passenger ferry at East Cowes with other potential sites being identified in the course of the investigation.</p> <p>3.13 It was anticipated that some car ferry operators might need to relocate in order to increase the capacity of existing services, whereas some might need to expand into additional locations whilst retaining current facilities.</p> <p>3.14 The possibility of developing the facilities on the River Medina was raised and the Commission was advised that wharfs were limited and therefore opportunity for wharfage services was limited.</p> <p>3.15 It was noted that although ferry ports were very expensive investments with high capital costs, the Council might be able to partner with a ferry operator in the future to provide sustainable services. Members also noted that SEEDA managed the ex-MOD site in Gosport and it was possible that this could be investigated further.</p>
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	<p>3.16 The Commission agreed to submit the Blue Paper to Cabinet for formal adoption of the recommendations.</p>
<p>4 To consider the blue paper on the Hubs Enquiry - E06/06</p>	<p>4.1 The Commissioner introduced the blue paper and reminded Members that the purpose of the enquiry had been to find the most appropriate way to improve the Council's services.</p> <p>4.2 The Commission noted that currently most services were centred in Newport, although the Council had 75 different access points across the Island.</p> <p>4.3 The enquiry had also highlighted the number of employees who currently travelled into Newport on a daily basis, although their work could be done from a Hub located closer to home.</p> <p>4.4 Discussions with the PCT and the Police had taken place, and they had already agreed to prepare a joint property disposal strategy with the Council.</p> <p>4.5 The enquiry had focussed on community leadership and had identified an opportunity to co-locate with the PCT as part of the health integration agenda to provide community based health and social care. The Police had also indicated an interest in sharing a building and it was envisaged that other Council services could also be included.</p> <p>4.6 The enquiry had identified Moa Place in Freshwater as a potential pilot project, which, if successful, could then be rolled out across the Island.</p> <p>4.7 The Commission was advised that nothing would be undertaken at Moa Place without consultation with the West Wight Sports Trust, the PCT, the Police and the local community.</p> <p>4.8 Members requested that the voluntary sector also be included in any consultations, since they also provided wide-ranging services in the area.</p> <p>4.9 The Commission also sought, and received, reassurance that the pilot project would not have a detrimental affect on the Youth Service currently provided at Moa Place.</p> <p>4.10 An amendment was proposed and accepted to delete the word 'options' from the title of Section 2.</p> <p>4.11 The Commission agreed to submit the Hubs Enquiry Blue Paper to Cabinet for formal adoption of the recommendations subject to the amendment in 4.10.</p>

The meeting closed at 7.15 pm.