



Minutes

Name of meeting	SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Date and time	12 JUNE 2007, 6.00 PM
Venue	COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs Vanessa Churchman (in the Chair), Anne Bishop, William Burt, Heather Humby, Geoff Lumley, Brian Mosdell, Lady Pigot, Diana Tuson, Margaret Webster
Co-opted Members (voting)	Mrs Sue Poston, Mr Charles Rogers
Co-opted Member (non voting)	Mr Bob Blezzard
Parent Governor Members (voting)	Mrs Sara Sheath, Mr Adrian Smith
Officers Present	Mr Steve Beynon, Miss Andrea Lisseter, Mr Stuart Love, Mr Paul Thistlewood
Other Members Present	Cllrs George Brown and Andy Sutton
Apologies	Cllrs Ivan Bulwer and Barbara Foster

17. **Minutes**

RESOLVED :

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on [17 May 2007](#) be confirmed.

18. **Declarations of Interest**

Mr Bob Blezzard declared a personal and non prejudicial interest in Minute 19 – 25 as he was a Member of Sandown Town Council and the Isle of Wight Association of Town and Parish Councils.

19. **Public Question Time**

There were no public questions.

Anti-Social Behaviour

The Cabinet Member for Safer Communities and Fire Modernisation attended for this item and updated the Committee on how the Council and the Police were responding to anti-social behaviour. The Cabinet Member circulated a briefing note which defined anti-social behaviour, provided information on the crime and drugs audit, and considered how the Council and Police could work together to reduce anti-social behaviour. Members were informed that the Police were picking up children causing anti-social behaviour and taking them home to their parents.

The Committee were informed that the Isle of Wight Council was at the bottom of the league table for anti-social behaviour in Hampshire compared to similar rural areas, however, the perception of crime on the Island was high.

The Cabinet Member stated that there were 70 static CCTV cameras on the Island and 6 mobile cameras, all of which were active, had good quality resolution, and were monitored. At the end of the financial year the control room would be upgraded from analogue to digital.

The Committee requested information on how graffiti on the Island was being dealt with and were informed that such incidents were being tackled by offenders through their Community Service. The Council had agreed to provide the equipment.

The Committee raised concerns regarding the lack of areas allocated within Island Communities for young people to congregate. The Cabinet Member informed the Committee that the Police were consulting with local communities to find areas where young people could spend time without disturbing others. The Committee suggested that developers should be encouraged to provide these areas when forming new plans. The Cabinet Member was unsure of the plans of the Youth Service with regard to anti-social behaviour.

The Cabinet Member informed the Committee that the Police had been undertaking a survey of people who had been drinking and consequently end up in Accident and Emergency as a result of alcohol. The Cabinet Member stated that he would look into licensing and illegal sales.

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods informed the Committee that work was being carried out to educate young people on the effects of alcohol and drugs. Information sharing between the Council, the Police, and Accident and Emergency had improved and the information was being fed back to the licensing department.

The Committee suggested that methods of keeping children occupied, in addition to youth clubs, should be investigated. It was noted that the Policy Commission for Children and School Results was undertaking a revision of the Council's Youth Engagement Strategy.

A discussion was held around making better use of school premises during evenings and school holidays, in particular high schools which generally had more facilities. The Cabinet Member informed the Committee that it was down to Governors to decide how their school was used outside of normal hours and any requests was for them to decide upon. It was noted that there were health and safety issues to be considered with regard to opening schools at evenings and weekends. The Director of Children's Services informed the Committee that Downside Middle School was a national exemplar of an extended school facility and explained that schools could use their money to do this. The Director also highlighted, however, that some high schools receive extra income from hiring out their facilities at a commercial rate to members of the public and could lose this income stream if the facilities were instead used for school clubs or community use at a lower rate.

The Cabinet Member informed the Committee that a policy and performance group met monthly to look at issues around crime and queries concerning crime should be raised with this forum. This meeting was chaired by the Leader of the Council and included the Police, the Youth Offending Team, and the Probation Service.

The Committee asked the Cabinet Member how they could assist with anti-social behaviour and the Cabinet Member agreed to come back to the Committee with any ideas.

RESOLVED:

THAT the information be noted and considered in the formation of the scoping document for the enquiry.

21. **Use of Consultants SC10/06**

The information requested at the previous meeting had been circulated to Members. Members received the final report and recommendations on the Use of Consultants. This would, if approved, be submitted to the Cabinet Member for Resources for comment and recommendations.

RESOLVED:

THAT the report be agreed.

22. **Recycling and Waste Management SC01/07**

The Committee considered the scoping document for the recycling and waste management enquiry.

The Committee were informed that at least 85% of the Island's waste was commercial and there was limited space for landfill. The task group would look at whether the Council could help to reduce the amount of commercial waste going to landfill. The Committee felt that it was important to look at the costs involved to ensure that the disposal

and recycling of commercial waste did not cost the Council money as the Council currently did not have obligations regarding this.

A discussion was held around how smaller commercial enterprises deal with their waste, options for farming waste, and reward systems in place to encourage people to recycle packaging. The Committee raised concerns regarding fly tipping and the Director informed the Committee that the new town centre manager posts would assist in taking robust action against fly tipping.

The Leader of the Council drew Members attention to a useful best practice video from the Local Government Association regarding fly tipping in the London Borough of Ealing.

The task group hoped to be able to report back to the Committee in September.

RESOLVED:

That the scoping document be approved.

23. **The Island's Built Environment SC02/07**

The scoping document was withdrawn in order to incorporate comments from the Head of Planning and the Interim Director of Regeneration in light of the forthcoming inspection of the Planning Service by the Planning Advisory Service to make the work realistic and effective.

RESOLVED:

That the scoping document be withdrawn and an update be brought back to an informal meeting.

24. **Progress on Current Enquiries**

Cllr Lumley reminded the Committee that the final reports on the school attainment 2006 enquiry and the supporting people enquiry were ready but were still with the relevant Directors for comment.

The Committee requested that the Vice Chair ensure that commitments made to the Committee regarding reporting processes be adhered to. The Vice Chair agreed to address the issue.

25. **Forward Plan**

Members noted the Forward Plan for the period June – September 2007.

It was noted that the delegated decision for the Tennyson Trail had yet to be taken and a revised report had not come forward.

The Committee requested to know the reasons why Cabinet decisions become Cabinet Member decisions on the Forward Plan. It was noted that the Constitution was currently being revised which would make the process more transparent.

The meeting closed at 7.15 pm

CHAIRMAN