



Minutes

Name of meeting	SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Date and time	28 FEBRUARY 2008, COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM
Venue	COMMITTEE ROOM ONE, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs Muriel Miller (Chair), Ivan Bulwer, William Burt, Heather Humby, Gill Kennett, Geoff Lumley, Erica Oulton, Lady Pigot
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
Officers Present	Adrian Ash, Steve Boswell, Kim Dueck, George Hook, Jill Laurence-Tilley, Andrea Lisseter, Heidi Marshall, Chris Mathews, Paul Thistlewood
Other Members Present	Cllrs Barry Abraham, Tim Hunter-Henderson
Apologies	Cllrs Barbara Foster, Garry Price and Margaret Webster. Mr Adrian Smith
57.	Minutes <u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2008 be confirmed
58.	Declarations of Interest Mr Bob Blezzard declared a personal interest in Minute Numbers 60-65 as he was a member of Sandown Town Council and clerk to Yarmouth Town Council.

59. **Public Question Time**

There were no public questions.

60. **Waste Management and Recycling Enquiry - Response to Recommendations**

The Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport outlined his responses to the 19 recommendations made by the Committee in its enquiry into waste management and recycling. He welcomed the report and thanked those members involved in the enquiry for identifying a range of key issues.

In considering the Cabinet Member's response the following issues were further highlighted :-

- **Green Waste**

The Committee still believed that there was a need for more garden waste to be removed from general waste and treated as a separate target. Accepted that the Lynbottom Civic Amenity Site was well organised for the separation of such waste but it would be of benefit for the residents of the West Wight if the Afton site was made equally accessible and environmentally organised. It was noted that the sale of green waste sacks to the public ensured that service costs were covered but clarification to be sought as to whether the bags themselves were biodegradable. The possibility of a rental scheme for shredders to allow for waste to remain within the local community rather than transported to a Civic Amenity site should be explored with the commercial sector.

- **Commercial waste recycling**

The Cabinet Member advised Members of the Committee that through networking events the producers of commercial waste and salvage companies would be encouraged to form business partnerships to self manage their waste.

The use of existing land and premises for the handling of waste materials would be part of consultations on the Island Plan.

The Council should take a proactive role in enabling and educating businesses on waste management.

- **Civic Amenity Sites**

These had been reviewed and improvements implemented. Independent audit undertaken of health and safety issues and these had been given a 5 star accreditation. Domestic waste volumes were split 50% between kerbside and civic amenity sites.

- Glass recycling

Recycled glass as a highway material was trialed by Biffa and a report was expected but early indication showed that mixed glass could be problematic. Feedback would be sought from Biffa.

- Recycling of tyres

The Cabinet Member advised that tyre shredding and transportation to the mainland for processing was working well but there could be an opportunity for an Island enterprise to look at the potential and also include other rubber items in domestic waste could be targeted.

- Landfill Tax

Members of the Committee stressed the need to raise public awareness of the increase in Landfill Tax. Unless there was a reduction in amount of domestic waste going to landfill then these costs would impact upon the level of Council Tax.

- Flytipping

Issues connected with fly tipping were discussed. It was noted that where flytipping took place on private land the landowner was responsible for the costs of clearance. There had been no prosecutions to date but the Council would be in a position to issue fixed penalty tickets from April 2008 on anyone found disposing of waste illegally. Officers indicated that the figures for flytipping also included instances where waste was placed out for collection on the wrong day Town Centre Managers would play an important role in this but members expressed some concern that this would not be of assistance to rural communities.

- Furniture

Members were advised that the Storeroom Project had now supplied updated information and this would be circulated.

Old furniture was separated at the Lynnbottom Civic Amenity site. This was undertaken by sub-contractors but it was not known where this went to.

RESOLVED:

THAT the responses of the Cabinet Member be noted and that information identified be circulated to the Committee.

61. **Performance Management**

a. Enquiry Scoping Document – SC02/08

The Committee was reminded that it now had a role in monitoring performance management. This would be a standing enquiry and a Task Group would be established to help in identifying key areas for enquiry. To assist in the process an enquiry scoping document had been drafted so that the proposed outcomes from the Committee's involvement were clear

RESOLVED:

THAT the Scoping Document be agreed.

b. Quarterly Performance and Risk Report – Quarter 3

The Committee considered the quarterly report on performance and risk that had been submitted to the Cabinet on 19 February 2008. It was intended that at future meetings at least one cabinet member would be invited to brief the Committee on key issues, including performance and budget.

The Cabinet Member for Residents and Resources and the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport were in attendance at the meeting and were questioned upon a range of issues arising from the monitoring report for the services within their area of responsibility.

The Cabinet Member for Residents and Resources was questioned on the high number of Highway Public Liability insurance claims whilst the total number of insurance claims generally were within target, The Audit Committee had also asked the Committee to look at concerns raised in an Internal Audit report on delays in undertaking routine highway inspections. He advised that the figures related to claims that had been received and not all these would involve the Council incurring a cost as they had to be proven. A large number of the highway claims related to one site, Park Road Wootton. The Committee also expressed concern as to the low level of capital expenditure on highway schemes. It was noted this had arisen due to the recent changes introduced on procurement together with staffing levels. These were now being addressed. Training on the new procurement code was due to commence in January 2008. Members requested that they be supplied with details of the number of officers to be trained and the timescales for completion.

With regard to the information recorded the Corporate Performance Manager and Interim Head of Compliance

indicated that they would look at revising that for claims so that it related to costs rather than the number received.

The cabinet member clarified the performance on responding to the Local Government Ombudsman. The non achievement of the target was due to insufficient resources in planning to deal with complaints about that service. Arrangements were being put in place to rectify this. All other services provided responses within the annual target of 28 days.

The high risk score associated with having an effective corporate health and safety arrangements for staff was raised. It was anticipated that the planned actions would reduce this to a medium risk.

The Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport confirmed to Members of the Committee that the indicator for 'number of missed domestic collections per month (monthly)' was within target should in fact be shown in green.

It was noted that the outcome of the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) bid for highways was expected in April 2008. Alternatives were being looked at should the bid not be successful.

RESOLVED:

THAT the responses of the Cabinet Members be noted and that the information requested on staff training in the new procurement code, together with the figures on insurance claims be forwarded to the Committee.

62. **Financial Management**

a. Financial Management Report for Quarter 3 (to 31 December 2007)

Consideration was given to the financial management report which was submitted to the Cabinet on 19 February 2008. This indicated that the revenue budget for 2007/08 was projected to balance but further slippage was likely with the capital programme.

RESOLVED:

THAT the report be noted.

b. Enquiry Scoping Document – SC01/08

Members were informed that to enable the Task Group to

be more effective in its on-going monitoring of the Council's budget its scope should be extended to incorporate reserves and capital.

RESOLVED:

THAT the revised scoping document SC01/08 be agreed.

63. **Public Utilities Work on the Public Highway**

It was intended to undertake an enquiry into the co-ordination and co-operation between the Council and public utilities. To enable this to commence consideration was given to the scope.

RESOLVED:

THAT the scoping document SC03/08 be agreed.

64. **Forward Plan**

Members considered the Forward Plan for the period March - June 2008. They expressed concern as to the number of items proposed for the meetings of the Cabinet and Full Council bearing in mind that they were due to debate school organisation. It was noted that the item on the Annual Audit Letter had already been moved to the Cabinet meeting in April. The Head of Democratic Services agreed to look into the agenda items.

RESOLVED:

THAT the Head of Democratic Services review the items proposed for the meetings of the full Council and Cabinet on 19 March

65. **Progress Report on Other Current Enquiries**

The task group for the Anti Social Behaviour enquiry had met with representatives from the Housing Associations and another meeting was scheduled to obtain further evidence.

CHAIRMAN