

Minutes

Name of meeting	POLICY AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR REGENERATION, PLANNING, HOUSING AND THE ENVIRONMENT
Date and time	THURSDAY 2 MAY 2019 AT 5PM
Venue	COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs Steve Hastings (Chairman), Geoff Brodie, Andrew Garratt, Chris Quirk, Brian Tyndall
Cabinet Members	Cllrs John Hobart, Stuart Hutchinson, Dave Stewart, Ian Ward, Wayne Whittle
Other Members	Cllrs Julie Jones-Evans, Karl Love
Officers	Chris Ashman, David Evans, Sarah MacDonald, Eleanor Reed, Paul Thistlewood
Apologies	Cllrs Michael Beston, John Medland

20. **Minutes**

RESOLVED:

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2019 be confirmed.

21. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

22. **Public Question Time**

Tanja Rebel of Cowes asked a question relating to whether the motion tabled for Full Council regarding a climate emergency could be re-named to include the word 'environment'. Ms Rebel was informed that this would have to be discussed outside the meeting as the council was currently in a pre-election period. Ms Rebel said that she would like every Councillor to read the information she had provided regarding electromagnetic radiation.

Another member of the public asked when 5G was coming to the Isle of Wight. The Chairman informed him he did not know at present, as it would be government-led.

Another member of the public asked whether there would be Risk Assessments of radiation undertaken independently of Public Health. The chairman indicated that this would be a matter for government.

Lisa Joyce-Oakley asked whether there could be an environment emergency called in relation to 5G and asked what risk assessments would be done in schools. The Chairman informed her that this would be discussed at a meeting which was due to take place in the near future.

23. Progress on outcomes and recommendations from previous meetings

Cllr Garrett confirmed that he had not yet had the opportunity to meet with Will Myles of Visit IW regarding data analysis.

It was noted that some of the items on the progress report had been on it for a year or more and were still outstanding. The Chairman would follow these up.

Cllr Ward reported that the Highways PFI review was moving along quickly and that he would circulate any further information once it was received.

Cllr Hobart confirmed that the visit to the proposed new Record Office at Cothey Bottom for members was in hand and would shortly be arranged.

RESOLVED :

THAT responses from the relevant cabinet members on the use of section 106 monies and recommendations from the Isle of Wight Salvation Army for inclusion in the Housing Strategy be sought by the chairman.

24. Speed Limit Policy

David Evans, Strategic Manager for Highways and Transportation, gave an overview of the Council's current speed limit policy which had been developed in conjunction with relevant partners. The policy enabled the Council to set its own limits within the national limit where deemed appropriate, having regard to the Department for Transport (DfT) guidance.

A recent action plan had been produced, to include a review of speed limits over a 2-year period in 2 phases – between October 2019 and January 2020 in Cowes, Ryde and Ventnor, and the second year in Newport, Sandown and the West Wight. Traffic Regulation Orders would also be reviewed in each district.

The Committee were made aware of the Community Speedwatch initiatives already in place in some areas. The scheme allowed members of the community as well as the police to monitor speeds in their area. New equipment was, however, necessary and Highways had agreed to match-fund any monies raised in the community for this to be purchased.

Superintendent James Upton, responsible for roads policing on the IW, explained that 20mph limits had been implemented in some areas in line with DfT guidance and that they should be self-enforcing. Where evidence was obtained that limits were regularly being breached it would be investigated. There were a variety of options to resolve speeding issues such as road engineering, community speedwatch, speed cameras and enforcement. PC Malcolm Smith, Traffic Enforcement Officer also gave his perspective on speed limits on the Island.

Several Members gave anecdotal evidence of issues in their own areas, including improvements where traffic calming measures and 20mph limits had been implemented. Cllr Jones Evans gave some facts and figures around the estimated cost per head of putting in a 20mph limit. She had gained a lot of support in her area and offered to join a working party on the subject should such a group be set up.

The police reported that a 20mph speed limit was not effective without additional physical traffic calming measures, and that road characteristics had more impact on speed than signage alone.

Eleanor Reed from Public Health explained that the reduction of 'killed and serious injuries on the roads' was one of the published public health outcomes. The environmental impact on air quality was also a factor that required consideration.

Supt Upton explained that a Road Safety Strategic Working Group had been set up with police and partners which had held three meetings so far. The aim of the group was to establish consistency in the area, gather data and obtain evidence to inform decisions. Updates would be provided to the Committee as and when necessary.

Members believed that this topic was worthy of being looked at in detail by a task group. Rather than wait to agree a scope for the review until the next meeting it was proposed that the draft could be circulated to members of the committee for approval so that work could start at an earlier date.

RESOLVED:

- a) More information relating to the establishment and benefits of Community Speedwatch be circulated to the committee.
- b) The outcomes of the Highways Safety and Improvement Register action plans, including the speed limit reviews, be reported to the committee.
- c) A task and finish group be established to look at the advantages and disadvantages of the implementation of 20mph speed limits.

25. Public Utilities

The importance of challenging utility companies was important when progressing regeneration projects to ensure the correct infrastructure was in place. The Director of Regeneration was having regular exchanges with the water, telecom and energy providers to co-ordinate works where possible. There appeared to often be delays in progressing major developments due to the time taken to obtain approval for the utility companies.

Members were concerned that it was alleged that only 26% of Wight Fibre reinstatements had been approved by Island Roads, and that some of the works were not fit and possibly dangerous. The main issues seemed to be with sub-contractors, and this was still under discussion. Members were, however, pleased to see a proposed increase in the guarantee period for which the companies were to be responsible for the works. The Cabinet member for Highways and Transportation reported that Island Roads already operated a 5-year warranty.

RESOLVED:

Representatives of the public utility companies to be invited to an informal meeting of the committee to discuss their role in progressing development sites, co-ordination of street works and quality of reinstatements.

26. Regeneration Strategy

The Director of Regeneration reported that since the last meeting in February 2019 the development of Newport Harbour had entered the next phase of engagement with stakeholders. Positive feedback and constructive criticism had already been received, and further engagement was scheduled for a few weeks' time. The local member voiced concern that there was a degree of public suspicion over the plans for the Seaclose area of the harbour. The Cabinet Member gave assurances that no decision had yet been made and discussions were being held over the form in which the information would be presented to the public. The office at 30 High Street, Newport would give information and take any feedback from the public.

Negotiation with Homes England was continuing over the acquisition of the area around the Columbine Building in East Cowes. This was progressing well and should be concluded in a few weeks' time.

The Medina Avenue housing project was progressing well. Some Members had been to London to look at the modular homes that were planned to be erected on the Medina Avenue site. It was intended that they should be delivered to the Island by the autumn 2019.

There would be an Integrated Transport bid submitted in June 2019 in respect of Ryde Esplanade. If successful, this would assist with environmental improvements around the Esplanade. A bid would also be submitted for funding for a Heritage High Street, for better pedestrian access.

Cllr Brodie requested that the development of the Barton Primary School site should be referred to as the '*former* Barton Primary School' in order to avoid confusion with the current school site.

The Director circulated an Executive Summary of the Regeneration Strategy. The theme of 'physical regeneration' had been amended to reflect the wider theme of 'place making'. The strategy recognised the cultural identity and environmental assets of the Island and how they should be protected.

The document contained a range of challenges, the person or department responsible and the resources identified. The summary identified the headline action plan for the next three years. There would be a review of the strategy every four years. Members were pleased to see cycling and walking initiatives included. The local member for Parkhurst believed that more could be done for cyclists and walkers in the design of the planned works to St Mary's junction. Other Members agreed there could have been missed opportunities.

The Local Member for East Cowes requested that East Cowes also be included in the regeneration plans with regard to cycling.

RESOLVED:

- a) A copy of the recent presentation made to stakeholders regarding Newport Harbour Regeneration be circulated to the committee.
- b) The Cabinet Member for Transport and Infrastructure, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Business Development and Cabinet Member for Environment and Heritage meet with Councillors Garratt and Brodie to discuss issues relating to facilities for pedestrians and cyclists as part of the proposed St Mary's Roundabout highway improvement scheme

27. Cabinet items – 9 May 2019

The reports on the Isle of Wight Regeneration Strategy and the Isle of Wight Digital Strategy, deferred from the 9 May 2019 Cabinet to the 13 June 2019, would be circulated to the committee to enable comments to be forwarded.

28. Committee's Work Plan

Cabinet Members gave the following updates

- Improvements to Islandline

There was no further update from the last meeting..

- Relocation of the Record and Archive Service

Stage 1 – the design and costing of the centre – was nearing completion. The Cabinet Member would be meeting with officers on 15 May 2019 and with representatives from the National Archive Service on 23 May 2019. The Committee would be updated at the next meeting. In the meantime a visit to the centre would be arranged for members of the Committee, as previously discussed.

The next meeting of the committee was due to be held on 4 July 2019. Members suggested that a focus should be given to housing issues. Chris Garnett had indicated he would be attending the meeting on 2 September 2019 to report on progress with the Transport Infrastructure Task Group.

29. Members' Question Time

There were no Members' questions.

CHAIRMAN