



Minutes

Name of meeting	POLICY AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS AND REGENERATION
Date and time	THURSDAY, 6 FEBRUARY 2020 COMMENCING AT 5.00PM
Venue	COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs Michael Beston (Chairman), Paul Bertie, Andrew Garratt, Michael Lilley, John Medland, Brian Tyndall
Cabinet Members	Cllrs Barry Abraham, Steve Hastings, John Hobart, Dave Stewart, Wayne Whittle
Other Members	Cllr Julie Jones-Evans,
Officers Present	Chris Ashman, Natasha Dix, Claire Kennard, Sarah MacDonald, Lee Matthews, Colin Rowland, Paul Thistlewood, Gino Wooldridge
Apologies	Cllr Chris Quirk

1. Minutes

RESOLVED:

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2019 be confirmed.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Lilley declared an interest in respect of the item regarding climate change, as he was a trustee of Wight Community Energy.

3. Public Question Time

A member of the public queried how the recordings of the meetings could be accessed. An explanation was given.

4. Progress on outcomes and recommendations from previous meetings

The task and finish group which was due to be set up to look at speed limits on the Island had been delayed due to another task and finish group being set up to deal with the climate emergency. It was hoped that this could now be progressed.

RESOLVED_:

THAT the report be noted.

5. Reduction in the Island's Net Carbon Emissions

Since the council had declared a climate emergency much work had been done, resulting in the production of a draft strategy and achievable action plan.

The document was seen as a good starting point although members felt that there may be opportunities to be more ambitious, for example, a move towards 100% electric cars on the Island and more use of solar energy.

A feasibility study had recently been commissioned in respect of electric vehicles, as the date for all new vehicles to be electric powered had been brought forward to 2035. An appropriate number of charging points, and their possible positioning around the Island, would be considered and built into the strategy.

The Committee noted that the council offered free parking permits for new electric vehicles. It was recognised however that to incentivise people to purchase second hand or hybrid electric vehicles, consideration would need to be given to including them in the permit scheme, and this would be investigated.

An international conference had been held on the Island in 2014 on climate change. Following this, a long-term plan had been developed, which included flooding action plans.

Members were concerned that private developers were using green land for housing. Further studies and discussions were needed into how this would affect the environment/climate change/biosphere.

The Council would be working closely with AONB regarding the dark skies policy and how it related to the street lights on the Island. There was a compromise between the policy and the need for safety.

The Green Impact Initiative was now about to launch its second year. A partnership between the Council, Chamber of Commerce and businesses, it had won an award in September 2019 for the Island programme. There were 65 businesses already taking part and more would be encouraged to sign up.

Members were impressed at the large number of activities contained in the strategy and were encouraged that many small actions would achieve larger gains over time. Members looked forward to receiving progress reports at later meetings.

The strategy would be reviewed as the action plan progressed. The aim was for it to be populated with costings, estimates and required resources by the end of April 2020. The final draft would be completed by the end of May 2020 ready for approval by Cabinet. The task and finish group would be used to ratify the actions and timescales and would work closely with the Environment &

Sustainability Forum to test the action plan.

Members felt that it may be useful to hold a conference or seminar for the community, including schools, to enable them to find out what actions were being taken.

The Committee requested a report on an annual basis, with a shorter update every six months.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the progress report, strategy and action plans be noted,
- b) The Cabinet Member for Procurement, Waste Management, Special Projects and Forward Planning be requested to consider facilitating a conference/seminar for any interested groups, organisations and schools on the development of the climate and environment strategy.
- c) A further report on the strategy and action plans, including a full costing for a pathway to net zero carbon, be submitted to the Committee at its meeting on 30 April 2020.
- d) The workplan for the committee to include a yearly review of the actions being taken on the delivery of the strategy.

6. Public Spaces Protection Orders – Consultation

The main purpose of the introduction of the Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) was to replace old Dog Control Orders and Designated Public Places Orders. A full public consultation would commence in February 2020 and would run for 8 weeks, following which responses would be analysed and fed back to members. The changes to the existing arrangements mainly concerned the exclusion of dogs in playgrounds and cemeteries and some rights of way where there had been animal control issues. Members felt that improved signage was required in some areas to clarify where dogs were not permitted. Improved communication and education would be important.

The Committee requested that the item be brought back to the meeting on 30 April 2020 for an update following the consultation.

RESOLVED:

That a report be submitted to the Committee at its meeting on 30 April 2020, outlining the responses received in respect of the public consultation on the Public Spaces Protection Orders.

7. Public Consultation regarding the Draft Housing Strategy

The Draft Housing Strategy had been prepared as there was currently no strategy for the council. A presentation was given by way of an interactive map which demonstrated the affordability differences and gaps across the island. The Land Registry data was updated on a monthly basis, and information

concerning the average salary was updated yearly. Three years of affordability data had been provided which would be updated annually. It was suggested that mortgage company figures would also be useful.

Members felt that other partners would benefit from having sight of the presentation to gain an understanding of the challenges that the council faced. Linking to the Regeneration Strategy would be important in attracting companies to the island which pay more, to enable affordability.

Due to its size, the island did not qualify for a social housing grant from Homes England, however this would be pursued further with an evidence-based approach in order to build more homes for existing residents. It was hoped that two council owned sites which had been earmarked for development would see 100 homes built within the next year, in conjunction with Vectis Housing.

The strategy should include more practical ways to encourage lenders to help working people to purchase their first home.

Members requested that representatives from Homes England be invited to the island to discuss the provision of affordable housing on sites in its ownership and see for themselves the problems the island was facing.

RESOLVED:

- a) All members of the Council be provided with details of the link to the interactive data relating to housing.
- b) A representative of Homes England be requested to attend a meeting with the Committee to discuss the provision of affordable housing on the Island with particular reference to sites within its ownership.

8. Regeneration Strategy

a) Key Regeneration Projects

Since the adoption of the Regeneration Strategy in June 2019 progress had been made with each of the key themes and an update on each area was provided to the Committee. Government funding amounting to £3 million had been secured from various sources. A bid had been submitted for Ryde interchange, the result of which was expected in March 2019.

b) Heritage Led Regeneration

The Committee were updated on the progress in developing a heritage-led approach to regeneration and were informed of the Heritage High Street Action Zone programme. Newport and Carisbrooke Community Council and Ryde Town Council had both been successful in securing funding under the programme. Following the Shaping Newport survey, 15 actions had been identified and the initiatives progressed in Ryde and Newport would be shared with other towns across the island. Historic England were keen to see local engagement and collaborative working, as this could lead to other funding.

RESOLVED:

The Heritage High Street Action Zone projects and their relationship to the wider regeneration strategy, be noted and the Committee receive updates on progress as the projects are implemented from 2020 onwards.

9. Draft Island Planning Strategy

A consultation had been undertaken late in 2018, ending in February 2019. Over 13,000 comments had been received which showed considerable concern over the government's housing target of 641 dwellings to be delivered per year. The strategy also included 30 hectares of land for development and 8.5 miles of new cycle track including Newport to West Wight.

There was a further consultation currently underway regarding housing needs which would be used to build up a picture of Island residents' needs. A letter would go out to every resident later in the year from the Leader asking them to respond, in order to gather as much evidence as possible for island residents.

The aim was to build up a plan to go back to the government with an evidence-based submission towards the end of autumn 2020 and to a full public enquiry in 2021. This would be based on a number that was more realistic and deliverable for island needs, in particular those people in rented accommodation and first-time buyers. Some market housing would still be required to enable growth in the community. Clarity would be required as to how the council could control new housing once planning permission was granted, to ensure new homes were used as primary residences rather than as second homes.

Improvement to infrastructure would need to be built into the Plan, including access to better public transport which would link to the Regeneration and Environment strategies.

Consideration would be given to the issue of building adjacent to the development envelope. The policy needed to be reviewed to include more defined boundaries. Planning officers could provide workshops for councillors if required.

It was noted that there was currently no policy on mineral extraction. A policy was needed and would be considered in the final version of the Plan.

The Committee were asked to look at the Plan and feed-back any comments or queries to the Cabinet Member as wider buy-in from other councillors was essential. Town and Parish Councils should also be involved so that the Planning inquiry would be able to consider a whole Island Plan.

A meeting would be facilitated between the Cabinet Member, Chairman and Director of Regeneration regarding the scoping of the work for the Committee to be involved in, which would be brought back to the next meeting.

RESOLVED:

A meeting be held between the Chairman of the Committee, the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing, The Director of Regeneration and the Scrutiny Officer to discuss the scope of a review by the Committee on development envelopes within the Core Strategy.

10. Committee's Workplan

a. Cabinet Members' Update

In the light of the meeting shortly becoming inquorate there were no Cabinet Members' updates given.

b. Key activities within the Corporate Plan 2019/22

The workplan would be updated with the items agreed at the meeting and there were ongoing discussions between the Cabinet Members, Directors and the Chairman on the content of the workplan.

11. Members' Questions

Cllr Lilley had submitted a written question regarding funeral poverty. A response had been received and would be circulated to Cllr Lilley and all Members present.

CHAIRMAN