



Minutes

Name of meeting	POLICY AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR REGENERATION, PLANNING, HOUSING AND THE ENVIRONMENT
Date and time	THURSDAY, 2 NOVEMBER 2017 AT 5.00PM
Venue	COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs Tig Outlaw (Chairman), Debbie Andre, Michael Beston, Andrew Garratt, Michael Lilley, Matthew Price and Brian Tyndall
Cabinet members present	Cllrs Barry Abraham, John Hobart and Ian Ward
Officers Present	Chris Ashman, Jon Baker, Wendy Perera and Paul Thistlewood

9. **Minutes**

The minutes to last meeting were reviewed.

RESOLVED:

THAT the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 7 September 2017 be agreed.

10. **Declarations of Interest**

None declared

11. **Public Question Time**

No written public questions were received

12. **Report of the Transport Infrastructure Task Force**

The committee reviewed the key recommendations from the Island Transport and Infrastructure Task Force report that had been referred to the policy and scrutiny committee by Cabinet at its meeting on 12 October 2017.

The key areas that had recommendations to be considered centred on cross Solent transport, use of technology and the Islands bus services.

On the matter of the council and its health partners lobbying central government (National Health Service) in order to get financial assistance for those who have to travel across the Solent to visit family in hospital it was noted that the issue would be referred to the Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Adult Social Care and Health

who would meet on 22 January 2018 as well as the Health and Wellbeing Board at its meeting on 18 January 2018 in order to discuss the matter. A report would be taken to both meetings and the Islands MP would also be written to on the issue.

The committee was advised that the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Transport had discussed with the MP the possibility of establishing special status for the Island which could assist with the cross Solent travel. Members were also advised that ferry operator Wightlink does already offer some special discounts around those receiving health care on the mainland.

Members then discussed the recommendation regarding an independent study being undertaken to evaluate the feasibility and cost benefit of a fixed link across the Solent either by road or rail. The committee was advised by the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Transport that mainland local authorities who would be affected by any link should be involved in any future discussions highlighting the benefits to their areas. Any feasibility study must be conducted by independent bodies and it was anticipated that this would not be completed until late 2018 at the earliest. Members were also advised that the matter was not a priority for the council given the many other financial challenges that the council would face in 2018.

With regard to the use of technology and the council working with transport operators to encourage the introduction of smart ticketing and in particular multi operator use smart payment opportunities, the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Transport advised that prior to the takeover of Island Line by First MTR South Western Trains, there had been a desire to implement a system of smart ticketing. Wightlink had also expressed an interest in such a system and indicated a willingness to explore the matter. It was anticipated that discussions would take place between operators and an update would be brought back to members at a future meeting with the operators invited to provide feedback.

The issue of recommendations around bus services and the suggestion of the Isle of Wight College investigating improvements which could be made to student access to transport was then discussed. Whilst members acknowledged that the bus service on the Island had improved over the years, the issue of cost continued to be a burden on some, particularly young people and the issue of student discount needed to be clarified.

Regarding bus lanes on the Island it was noted that whilst some discussions had taken place between the Cabinet Member and Southern Vectis around the issue on the number one route to Cowes, members agreed that more time and effort should be put into improving the flow of Island traffic. This could include the more effective use of smart traffic lights and bus lay-bys as well as improving the Islands cycle networks.

Whilst the implementation of bus lanes should not be ruled out completely, members agreed to focus more on traffic flow improvements.

RESOLVED:

THAT the report of the Transport Infrastructure Task Force be noted

13. [Regeneration Programme](#)

The Director of Regeneration provided members with a PowerPoint presentation on the opportunities that were open to the council with regards to its programme regeneration. The initiative was intended to deliver long-term revenue, positive economic impact and sustainable development as well as continuing community benefits and meaningful stakeholder engagement.

The various site opportunities were in Newport (Camp Hill and Newport Harbour area), Ryde (the Gateway and Nicholson Road) and the Bay area (Sandham Middle School and Shanklin Spa). Other areas of proposed development included Dinosaur Isle and other surrounding Bay sites and Kingston Marine Park near Cowes.

A soft market test exercise took place on 17 October 2017 with regard to Dinosaur Isle with 44 attendees. Feedback was being reviewed and there could be a lot of scope with regard to the sites future potential. All elected members of the Bay area were also invited to attend any future public and private stakeholder meetings around the focus on the wider plans for the Bay.

Members noted that all bar the three sites around the Newport and Cowes area were linked by the Island Line rail service and a possible dialogue on rail provision could be undertaken with a view to improve connections.

It was also noted that with regard to any development of Nicholson Road, members asked that consideration be given to the local residents of the surrounding area that would benefit from any employment opportunities. Members were advised that all areas of regeneration would recognise the social needs of the Island.

The Director of Regeneration also advised that the Digital Conference to be held on 8 November 2017 with the objectives of raising the digital economy on the Island and encouraging networking, would be an opportunity to highlight the message that the Isle of Wight would be a serious place to invest in and to do business as well as promote it as a desirable place to reside and visit.

The response to the 'Wight We Want' survey had also been positive with all ages invited to make representations. Workshops would take place across the Island to discuss the surveys outcomes and all members were encouraged to provide support.

RESOLVED:

THAT the Regeneration Programme be noted.

14. [Cabinet Members Update](#)

The Cabinet Member for Transport and Infrastructure was asked about the Newport Traffic Model and specifically the plans for Forrest Road. The Committee was advised that all proposals were still subject to consultation but a clearer picture should be available by the end of November 2017.

It was noted that a meeting involving all members of Newport ward members could be convened to discuss the Newport Traffic Model.

With regard to the recently approved abandoned vehicle policy, a structured timeline of six weeks was in place to deal with any incidents and improvements in the situation should be made evident soon.

15. **Committee Workplan**

The committee discussed forthcoming business that was needed for the next scheduled meeting on 2 February 2018.

A draft 2018 – 2019 budget report would be circulated in due course and any areas of relevance to the committee would be discussed.

A progress report from the Task and Finish Group on affordable housing would also be presented to the committee and the brown field site register could also be included in the discussions when addressing the update.

It was also suggested that a presentation around the councils approach to environmental issues could also be included at a future meeting.

The latest position with regard to the future of the Islands Records Office as well as a wider look at the museum providers and the development of the sustainable cultural strategy would also need to be included.

16. **Members Question Time**

Cllr Michael Lilley asked a question around the implications of the universal credit proposals, the rise in those experiencing financial hardship and what the council was planning to do in order to provide assistance to them.

The Chair advised that the question was a matter for the Cabinet and should therefore be forwarded to the relevant Cabinet Member.

CHAIRMAN