



# Minutes

Name of meeting	<b>POLICY AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR REGENERATION, PLANNING, HOUSING AND THE ENVIRONMENT</b>
Date and time	<b>THURSDAY, 1 FEBRUARY 2018 AT 5.00PM</b>
Venue	<b>COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT</b>
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, Ian Ward and Wayne Whittle
Officers and Stakeholders Present	Chris Ashman, Jon Baker, Gill Kennett (Carisbrooke Castle Museum), Alex Minns, Richard Smout, Wendy Perera, Virgil Philpott (Carisbrooke Castle Museum) and Paul Thistlewood

17. [Minutes](#)

The minutes to last meeting were reviewed.

**RESOLVED:**

THAT the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 2 November 2017 be agreed.

18. [Declarations of Interest](#)

None declared

19. [Public Question Time](#)

No written public questions were received

20. [Regeneration Strategy](#)

The Director of Regeneration gave the committee a presentation on the Area Regeneration Workshops that had been held at various locations around the Island and a written regeneration update was also circulated to all members.

The reason for the workshops was to identify and review various types of commercial, residential and industrial developments for the purpose of regeneration whilst recognising that in order for such prospective projects to work effectively and achieve maximum benefits, there needed to be an understanding in the context of their location by working with local communities.

This led to establishing five various locations with strengths and challenges identified and ascertaining from residents what the priorities would be. The areas were, Ryde, The Bay (Sandown / Shanklin), West Wight, West Medina and East Medina. Places outside or between the established areas were also included in discussions and the various demographics such as age and gender were highlighted. Gender was fairly evenly split with the average age of those attending being 59 across all areas. It was however noted that a younger age range would be targeted for comments, ideas and solutions at the Youth Conference at Cowes Yacht Haven on 6 March 2018, specifically focusing on the secondary school age.

At the workshops themselves, attendees were asked what was considered to be the best assets, top priority issues and what the overall vision for the area would be.

There was also a Place Plan exercise for Newport, carried out in conjunction with Newport Parish Council and Newport Business Association, which focussed on the town and its overall strategic importance and functionality to the whole Island. The plan attracted some 1,200 resident and business responses and the results would be made available in March 2018.

Members suggested that any regeneration plans should be in partnership with relevant Town and Parish Councils and various community groups. The Director of Regeneration agreed that any joint approach with all relevant bodies setting out ideas in town and neighbourhood plans with clear ideas and priorities that were evidence based would be supported in order to maximise regeneration benefits. Once local ideas and participation had been established, then larger businesses such as major travel operators could also be involved in shaping future plans.

With regard to employment opportunities, and specifically The Bay, workshops for that area identified the priority of a better infrastructure for providing employment and it was noted that a meeting would be held in Sandown later in the evening to discuss all priorities from the workshop in more detail.

On the issue of the level of engagement it was noted that whilst there was a lot of interest in regenerating the Island, awareness needed to be developed further and this would be addressed going forward with improved publicity anticipated in promoting the initiatives. Financial resources would also need to be utilised effectively in order to achieve better engagement and online opportunities such as the 'Wight We Want' campaign also played an important part in gathering ideas and suggestions.

The issue of promoting the Islands heritage was also discussed and it was noted that whilst focus had been on such facilities as the Dinosaur Isle museum in Sandown, more needed to be done in order to exploit the Islands traditional and historic value. It was therefore agreed that more engagement with all of the Island's cultural and heritage facilities was required.

With regard to future Higher Education services on the Island, the Director of Regeneration advised that investment of a new £12 million specialist centre for engineering, offering dedicated education and training by the Centre of Excellence for Composites, Advanced Manufacturing and Marine (CECamm) at the Island Technology Park in Whippingham illustrated well the potential in this area.

The Director of Regeneration and the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Business Development also attended a technology employers group where the whole issue of apprenticeships was a key agenda item and there was an appetite of from companies to fully embrace the opportunity afforded by the apprenticeship programme.

Finally it was agreed that at the next meeting of the committee on 3 May 2018, members would be presented with a report that would provide details of the revenue budget for regeneration and how this had been applied since April 2017.

**RESOLVED:**

- a) THAT the Regeneration Team ensures that the Island's cultural and heritage facilities are fully engaged in the regeneration.
- b) THAT a report be submitted to the next meeting detailing the revenue budget for regeneration and how this has been utilised over the past year.

21. **Partnership Working – Isle of Wight Heritage Service**

The councils Island Heritage Service Manager presented to the committee a report which advised on the increasing importance of partnership working with the Isle of Wight Heritage Service.

Such partnering had been an ongoing venture for many years which had ensured the services existence and the sharing of knowledge and collections.

One such collaboration, the Resilience Partnership, which incorporated Carisbrooke Castle Museum, the Classic Boat Museum, Dimbola Museum and Galleries, and the Quay Arts Centre commissioned reports that set out the impact of the heritage sector on the Island economy. Various exhibitions would showcase the value of the links between arts and heritage and other associates could also join the partnership at any future stage should it be seen as beneficial.

Many other examples of partnerships were also discussed such as Dinosaur Isle and Heritage Education Service with mainland universities.

Other new opportunities being explored included a new platform giving talks at the Minghella Theatre at Quay Arts around little heard but interesting historical events which could give both islanders and visitors alike a much greater appreciation of the Islands heritage and past culture.

Cllr Lilley declared an interest at this stage as he was a founder trustee of the Wight Aviation Museum in Sandown.

The Islands engineering heritage was highlighted and given that 2018 was the national year of engineering and that there were a lot of the Islands prominent engineers still in residence, such heritage needed to be promoted in order to encourage the next generation of potential notable talent.

Members were advised that with regard to the Cultural Strategy Delivery Plan an action plan had also been developed in order to monitor the activities and some of these had already been achieved.

With regard to the allocation of Section 106 funding, it was noted that the consideration of such financial assistance must be subjected to a fully costed project plan and adhere to certain conditions.

Members were also reminded that whilst every possible support must be afforded to the Islands heritage and partnering, everyone should be mindful to the councils overall budgetary responsibilities and that it had to work within its own financial means.

**RESOLVED:**

- a) THAT a report on the outcome of the meeting, being held on 13 February 2018, with National Archives on future options for records and archives on the Island should be submitted to the next meeting.
- b) THAT details of the Cornwall Museum Partnership be circulated to members of the Committee
- c) THAT the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing be requested to investigate the use of Section 106 monies to seed fund the future development of an Island cultural and heritage strategy

22. **Affordable / Specialist Housing and the Island Plan**

The committee were presented with a report which provided an update on work being done by the Task and Finish Group looking at affordable/specialist housing.

The paper listed various questions from the group along with responses from the 22 stakeholders of which eight had been received.

The Chair wished to register his thanks to Justin Gentlemen from Captiva Homes Ltd, Linda Bonin from Sovereign Housing Association and Peter Tomlinson from the Landlords Association for their comprehensive responses.

Members proposed that the Task and Finish Group meets and formulates recommendations with a view to bringing a report back to the committee meeting on 3 May 2018

**RESOLVED:**

THAT the Task and Finish Group meets to formulate recommendations following the responses received from key partners/stakeholders to its questionnaire and also take into account the views of the Cabinet Member and relevant Council officers.

23. **Cabinet Members Update**

The Cabinet for Planning and Housing advised that the proposed Local Plan was progressing and would go to public consultation within the next few months.

An item on The Forward Plan entitled the Approval of the Project Business Case - Capture Housing Proposal, was around possible options around the delivery of social and affordable housing and could be picked up for further discussion by the Task and Finish group.

With regard to the future options around the franchise for Islandline and the impact of the Government's new strategic vision on the current national rail network, it was agreed that a more detailed report from the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Transport providing an update on the situation could be presented at the next meeting.

The Cabinet Member for Environment and Heritage advised that there would be an Environment Conference in June 2018 and the issues of creating a plastic free island could be explored as well as providing guidance on general beach cleaning.

At present some arrangements were in place to clean beaches with recycling company TerraCycle and discussions had also taken place with volunteer groups to assist in various beach cleans where council officers would also be able to provide assistance. Southern Water were also investing in the prevention of agricultural dirty water entering the seas in the Bay area and the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) were also carrying out litter picks inland as well as around the coast. CPRE were also looking to create closer ties with fast food outlets in order to encourage their patrons not to generate litter.

On the issues of homelessness, the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing agreed that the treatment of any homeless people would be conducted in compassionate manner.

**RESOLVED:**

- a) THAT a report be requested from the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Transport on discussions that he has had with South Western Railway since it took over the franchise for Islandline together with the implications of the Government's new strategic vision for rail and possible extension to the current rail network.
- b) THAT details of the proposed Environment conference to be held on the Island in June 2018 be circulated when finalised

24. **Committee Workplan**

The Chairman asked committee members to e-mail him with any issues that could be considered for inclusion in the committee's workplan for future consideration.

CHAIRMAN