

Minutes

Name of meeting	CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Date and time	TUESDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2019, COMMENCING AT 5.00 PM
Venue	COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs Andrew Garratt (Chairman), Debbie Andre, Vanessa Churchman, Michael Lilley, Karl Love, Lora Peacey-Wilcox, Chris Quirk
Co-opted (Voting)	Helena Hewston (IWALC)
Cabinet Members	Cllrs Paul Brading, Steve Hastings, Stuart Hutchinson, Clare Mosdell, Ian Ward
Also Present	Cllr Shirley Smart Chris Ashman, Rob Brind, Amanda Gregory, Kerry Hubbleday, John Metcalfe, Wendy Perera, Eleanor Reed, Colin Rowland, Claire Shand, Paul Thistlewood, Carol Tozer, Megan Tuckwell, Andrew Wheeler, Geoff Wild, Abigail Wilkinson

40. Minutes

RESOLVED:

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on [8 October 2019](#) be confirmed.

41. [Declarations of Interest](#)

Cllr Michael Lilley declared an interest in items 45 and 46(c) as the chairman of the Voluntary Sector Forum.

42. [Progress on outcomes and recommendations from previous meetings](#)

The chairman presented the report on outcomes from previous meetings and the committee noted the progress against recommendations. It was advised that a number of cabinet member responses had been received since the last meeting. A meeting between the Committee and the Cabinet was arranged for 6 January 2020 to discuss the budget and to identify key areas in the Corporate Plan which would benefit from pre-decision scrutiny and involvement in policy development and review.

Responses to the resolutions arising from the last meeting on the Highways PFI Contract had been received, and the chairman requested that responses to the questions relating to the Highway PFI Contract be provided, in part or full, as soon as possible together with clarification as to the legal advice being sought.

RESOLVED:

- i) THAT the progress from previous meetings be noted.
- ii) THAT the Director of Neighbourhoods provide responses to the questions relating to the Highway PFI, in part or full, as soon as possible together with clarification as to the legal advice being sought.

43. Isle of Wight Community Safety Partnership (CSP)

The Chair of the Isle of Wight CSP presented the statutory annual strategic needs assessment for 2018-19 which provided statistical analysis and information on crime. It was noted that overall crime rates had reduced since 2017-18 and the future priorities were reducing violent crime, domestic violence and abuse, and reoffending.

Questions were raised regarding what was being done to reduce reoffending. It was confirmed that additional funding was secured to address this and there was a multi-agency approach to restorative justice solutions. Further discussion took place regarding the correlation between mental health and crime, and adverse childhood experiences. Concerns were noted that the inclusion of the prison population was distorting the figures. It was confirmed that there would be sufficient analytical resource for the next year, and the Partnership were not anticipating any issues arising from the Combined Fire Authority.

With regards to Community Resilience Plans, members suggested that the Partnership look at ways of enhancing its working relationship with Town and Parish Councils. It was advised that the Partnership's primary focus was on crime reduction but was open to strengthening community resilience in the future. Members suggested that the Partnership ensure that future strategic assessments display data in a more accessible format. It was confirmed that the strategic needs assessment was used to aid strategic planning and preventative measures, and was seen by the Health and Wellbeing Board, Safeguarding Boards, and used for applications for funding.

RESOLVED:

- i) THAT the progress with the 2018/2020 partnership plan be acknowledged.
- ii) THAT the committee confirmed it was satisfied that the Partnership is fulfilling its statutory duty.
- iii) THAT the Partnership be requested to ensure that data in future assessments is in a more accessible format and look at ways of enhancing its working relationship with Town and Parish Councils.

44. Progress on Agreed Budget Savings For 2019-20

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources presented an update on the progress with the agreed budget savings and the actions being taken to address any shortfalls. The Assistant Director of Finance provided a supporting paper ([HERE](#)). Questions were raised regarding the delivery of the Highways PFI Contract and it was clarified a report would be going to Audit Committee in December 2019, and discussion took place regarding the leisure centres forecast to deliver its budget.

The chairman referred to the budget meeting of full Council in February 2019 when it was indicated that the confidence level of achieving the proposed indicative savings was assessed as being medium and above. If the proposed savings were not achieved the relevant Cabinet Member could find alternatives amounting to the same value. The Chief Executive advised that the budget was set with the knowledge of the financial risks involved. There had been delays in getting budget and funding indications from government, for 2020/21. The Cabinet welcomed budget savings suggestions from any member.

RESOLVED:

THAT the progress with achieving the indicative budget savings be noted.

45. Corporate Peer Review Action Plan

The committee reviewed the progress with the delivery of the Corporate Peer Review Action Plan in advance of the proposed light touch inspection by the LGA. The Chief Executive advised that the LGA's focus was on Councils with the greatest need for support and the Isle of Wight Council was not in that category at this time. A proposed light touch inspection was aimed for March 2020. Members suggested an update on strengthening relationships with the Voluntary Sector, and the Chairman suggested the inclusion of the scrutiny function within its narrative.

RESOLVED:

- i) THAT the progress on the delivery of the Corporate Peer Review Action Plan be noted.
- ii) THAT a meeting be held between the chairman and the Assistant Chief Executive on the inclusion of the scrutiny function within the Corporate Peer Review Action Plan narrative.

46. Comments on items to be considered by the Cabinet on 14 November 2019

a) Procurement Strategy 2019-2022

Consideration was given to the Procurement Strategy which was designed to promote effective procurement and contract management across the whole Council. Members were pleased to note the easy to read format, and references to environmental and social value which hopefully would lead to engagement with local businesses and suppliers. The Cabinet Member for Procurement, Waste Management, Special Projects and Forward Planning advised that training programmes were built into strategy to support contract management. Members agreed the strategy was fit for purpose and suggested bringing a report back in a year on the progress on the implementation of the strategy.

RESOLVED :

THAT the Committee accepts that Procurement Strategy 2019-2022 is fit for purpose, and an item be included within the Committee's workplan to review the delivery of the action plan in 12 months' time.

b) [Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019-2024](#)

The Committee reviewed the Homelessness Strategy which set out the Council's strategic direction for tackling homelessness, reducing temporary accommodation, and eliminating rough sleeping. Members sought examples of temporary accommodation, the plans to increase the supply and availability of temporary homes, and negative comments received during the consultation. Concerns were raised regarding deprivation, private landlords, and empty homes. The Director of Adult Social Care advised that percentages were used to align with national targets but in future both percentages and actual figures can be provided. The Social Housing Stock referred to data from 2011 as the programme used identifies specific data on social housing.

RESOLVED :

THAT the Committee accepts that the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019-2024 is fit for purpose, and the relevant Policy and Scrutiny Committee would monitor the delivery of the action plan.

c) [Annual Public Health Report 2018-19](#)

Consideration was given to the Annual Public Health Report 2018-19. It was noted that it was a statutory duty of the Director of Public Health to produce an independent annual report providing an objective assessment of the health and wellbeing on the Island. Members were pleased to note that the report was relevant to the Islands demographics and acknowledged the Voluntary Sector. Discussion took place regarding digital inclusion and isolation, and Wightcare's proactive approach to power cuts in response to those residents who may be isolated.

RESOLVED :

THAT the Director of Public Health's Annual Public Health Report 2018-19 be endorsed, and the delivery of the recommendations be monitored by the Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Health and Social Care.

d) [Forward Plan](#)

Members gave consideration to the forward plan. With regards to the delegated decision '*Review of Council Assets - Ryde and Ventnor Harbours*', the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources advised that work was ongoing to resolve the issues and the town and parish councils have been approached. A question was raised regarding the upcoming delegated decision '*Appointment to Solent Growth Forum*', and whether this would be open to all members or just the Administration. It was advised that the query would be passed to the Leader for response.

RESOLVED:

THAT the Forward Plan be noted and the appointment of a representative to the Solent Growth Forum be referred to the Leader.

47. Leader's Update

In the absence of the Leader, the Deputy Leader advised that discussions were ongoing within the Cabinet about budget issues for the current and future years.

RESOLVED:

THAT the update be noted.

48. Committee's Workplan

The committee considered the workplan. It was noted that this would be further populated following discussions with the Cabinet on key areas from the Corporate Plan which would benefit from scrutiny involvement.

RESOLVED:

THAT the workplan be noted.

CHAIRMAN