



Minutes

Name of meeting	CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Date and time	TUESDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2020, COMMENCING AT 5.00 PM
Venue	COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs Andrew Garratt (Chairman), Debbie Andre, Richard Hollis, Michael Lilley, Karl Love, Paul Fuller, Chris Quirk, Brian Tyndall
Co-opted (Voting)	Helena Hewston (IWALC)
Cabinet Members	Cllrs Paul Brading, Steve Hastings, John Hobart, Stuart Hutchinson, Clare Mosdell, Gary Peace, Dave Stewart, Ian Ward, Wayne Whittle
Also Present	Cllrs Geoff Brodie, Julie Jones-Evans Chris Ashman, Laura Gaudion, Kerry Hubbleday, John Metcalfe, Alex Minns, Wendy Perera, Colin Rowland, Claire Shand, Paul Thistlewood, Megan Tuckwell, Geoff Wild

57. [Minutes](#)

RESOLVED:

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 January 2020 be confirmed.

58. [Declarations of Interest](#)

Cllr Michael Lilley declared an interest in Minute 62 (a) as his wife worked in child protection.

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

The chairman presented the report on outcomes from previous meetings, noting the revised format which separated completed and outstanding actions. Cllr Lilley sought an update on the request for members of the committee's commercialisation task and finish group to have early sight of the draft action plan supporting the Commercial Strategy. The Cabinet Member for Procurement, Waste Management, Special Projects and Forward Planning advised that this was being finalised and would be available from March 2020. It was agreed that Cllrs Lilley and Andre would make arrangements to meet with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing to discuss the Housing Strategy before the end of the consultation.

RESOLVED:

THAT the progress from previous meetings be noted.

60. Highways PFI Contract

The chairman introduced the item and provided an overview of the briefing held on 4 February 2020:

- An informal meeting was held on 4 February 2020 for members of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee, to receive an update on the delivery of the Highways PFI Contract. This briefing was not open to cabinet members.
- This followed scrutiny of the contract at the meeting on 8 October 2019 where it was resolved that a private meeting should be held once legal advice had been obtained.
- In order to receive the confidential information, members had been asked to sign a non-disclosure agreement. This raised issues regarding member's access to information and contractual law, indemnity, and personal liability. In light of this, no member chose to sign the confidentiality agreement at that meeting and a non-confidential version of the briefing was presented.

Members advised that most concerns around performance had been addressed in the non-confidential briefing and agreed that this briefing should be replicated for all members of the Council, together with representatives of town, parish and community councils.

Discussion took place regarding future performance monitoring and it was agreed that a quarterly performance report would be provided. Additionally, the committee should be formally updated on any changes to delivery, and all 400 performance measures should be circulated, in order for the committee to identify which measures should be prioritised for reporting to ensure that all are covered at least once. To assist with performance monitoring, all members of the council should ensure that Island Roads' formal process for reporting road defects was correctly utilised. The programme of highway works should also be published on the council's website, and where works were delayed the reasons for this should be identified together with a revised date for completion. It was believed that these measures for performance reporting and monitoring should be extended to the waste contract.

The Chairman indicated that he would be seeking the views of the Centre for Public Scrutiny on the application of the statutory guidance relating to access to information particularly where it was deemed confidential.

RESOLVED:

- i) THAT a non-confidential briefing be provided to all members of the Council, together with representatives of town, parish and community councils, on the delivery of works under the Highway PFI.
- ii) THAT the committee would receive a report detailing performance measures on a quarterly basis on the delivery of the Highway PFI and this report to also include relevant performance measures detailing the delivery of the waste contract.
- iii) THAT the list of all 400 performance measures regarding the Highway PFI be circulated by the Director of Neighbourhoods to all members of the committee, to identify which measures should be seen as a priority for reporting but the schedule of reporting during a year ensure that all measures are covered at least once.

- iv) THAT any future changes to the delivery of the Highway PFI or waste contract be reported to the committee.
- v) THAT all members of the council should ensure that the formal reporting process with Island Roads for road defects is correctly utilised to assist with robust performance monitoring.
- vi) THAT the programme of highway works be circulated to all members of the Council, all town/parish and community councils and published on the council's website and where works are delayed the reasons for this be identified together with a revised date for completion.

61. 2020-2021 Budget and Council Tax Setting and Future Years Forecasts

The chairman advised that, following the publication of the budget proposals on 5 February 2020, an informal meeting had taken place on 6 February 2020 where members of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee undertook a 'deep dive' into the budget and raised a series of questions. It was agreed that the questions raised by the Committee, and the responses received from Cabinet Members and Directors, be circulated to all members of the Council for their information ahead of Full Council on 26 February 2020 where the budget would be debated.

These questions and responses are attached as [Appendix 1](#) and form part of these minutes.

Discussion took place regarding income generation, investments, the impact on town and parish councils, and the uncertainties regarding the fair funding review. Further questioning took place regarding the progress with the Island Deal and the Leader advised that a lawful and balanced budget had been achieved. Regular dialogue with the MP was ongoing, and correspondence had been acknowledged by both the Prime Minister and the Chief Secretary of the Treasury. A meeting was taking place at the end of February 2020 and further updates would be provided when available. It was clarified that, as outlined in the budget proposals, additional funding from the government had already been received. This included an additional £4.8m for schools, £6m for social care, and £28m for improvements to the train line.

RESOLVED:

THAT the questions raised by the Committee regarding elements of the budget and the responses received from Cabinet Members and Directors be circulated to all members of the Council.

62. Comments on items to be considered by the Cabinet on 13 February 2020

a) Corporate Parenting Board Terms of Reference

The committee considered the report which detailed the revised terms of reference for the Corporate Parenting Board, to be adopted by the Cabinet and subsequently the Full Council. Members thanked officers for the preparation of the comprehensive document and supported the report.

RESOLVED:

THAT the proposed decision be supported.

b) **Forward Plan**

Members considered the forward plan and were encouraged to raise any queries they may have directly to the relevant Cabinet Member at the time of publication. Members noted that the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan linked with the Tour of Britain and would be a good opportunity to promote public health and sustainable travel. The Chief Executive clarified that the proposed decision relating to the Transforming Cities Fund Bid Update would be removed.

RESOLVED:

THAT the forward plan be noted.

63. **Leader's Update**

The Leader provided the following updates;

- Discussions with Hampshire regarding the delivery of partnership arrangements were ongoing.
- The Cowes Floating Bridge had a 95% reliability over the last 13 months. Options were being explored for replacing the boat used to guide the bridge during certain tidal conditions.
- The Police and Crime Panel confirmed that a £10 increase in 2020-21 would bring an additional 250 officers to Hampshire. Questions were raised regarding whether this commitment was likely to change following the Police and Crime Commissioner election in May 2020 and the Leader advised he was awaiting confirmation on how many officers would be allocated to the Isle of Wight.

RESOLVED:

THAT the updates be noted.

64. **Committee's Workplan**

The committee considered the workplan. The Chairman advised that this would be further populated going forward, and welcomed suggestions from Cabinet Members, or any other member, on items for possible inclusion in the Committee's workplan that would benefit from pre-decision scrutiny.

RESOLVED:

THAT the workplan be noted.

CHAIRMAN