



Minutes

Name of meeting	CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Date and Time	TUESDAY 12 JULY 2022 COMMENCING AT 5.00 PM
Venue	COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs C Quirk (Vice-Chair, in the Chair), C Critchison, W Drew, J Lever, M Lilley, J Medland, J Robertson and P Spink
Co-opted	Cameron Palin (IWALC)
Also Present	Cllrs I Stephens, J Bacon, P Fuller, C Jarman, J Jones-Evans and P Jordan, Christopher Ashman, Sharon Betts, James Brewer, Dawn Lang, Wendy Perera, Paul Thistlewood and Megan Tuckwell
Also Present (Virtual)	Cllrs K Lucioni, R Downer Simon Bryant, Christopher Potter, Colin Rowland and Claire Shand
Apologies	Cllr R Quigley

9 Minutes

The request for performance measures in relation to the operation of Cowes Floating Bridge was highlighted.

RESOLVED:

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2022 be confirmed as a true record.

10 Declarations of Interest

Cllr John Medland declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute item 7, the Island Planning Strategy, as the chairman of the Planning Committee.

11 Public Question Time - 15 Minutes Maximum

No public questions were received.

12 Progress Update

The chairman presented the report which provided an overview of the progress against actions and outcomes from previous meetings. No comments or questions were raised at this stage.

RESOLVED:

THAT the progress report be noted.

13 Committee's Workplan:

13a Forward Plan

The committee were invited to identify any item contained within the published forward plan that would benefit from early consideration within the committee's own workplan or one of the policy and scrutiny committees.

Questions were raised in relation to the Disposal of Potential Housing Site(s) in East Cowes, scheduled for decision by the Cabinet on 8 September 2022. It was agreed that Cllr Spink would speak with the Cabinet Member for Levelling Up, Regeneration, Business Development and Tourism on the item before advising the Chairman of the Committee whether this should be subject to pre-decision scrutiny.

Comments were raised in relation to the Review of the Public Health Partnership Function between the Isle of Wight and Hampshire, scheduled for decision by the Cabinet on 8 September 2022. It was noted that this was likely to be delayed due to the forthcoming LGA Peer Review of Public Health.

RESOLVED:

THAT the forward plan be noted.

13b Committee's Work Programme 2022-25

Consideration was given to the committee's work programme for 2022-25. No comments or questions were raised at this stage.

RESOLVED:

THAT the work programme be noted.

14 Affordable Housing

Consideration was given to the report as requested by the Committee at its last meeting; detailing the actions that had been taken with regards to the delivery of affordable homes on the Island, actions proposed, and an outline of the problems being encountered in the delivery of the Housing Strategy.

Questions were raised in relation to the acquisition strategy for the councils Housing Company, particularly in relation to the allocated budget and the intention to purchase up to 25 properties by spring 2023. The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Digital Transformation, Housing, Homelessness and Poverty, and the

interim Chief Executive, provided additional clarification around the three-year program of borrowing set out in the approved budget strategy. Questions were raised in relation to the time frame for the commissioning of the legal work and the business strategy plan.

Discussion took place regarding temporary accommodation, modular homes, inflation, the availability of materials and skills to build new homes, working with private and social landlords, and whether the council was seeking changes to legislation to address issues around second homeownership and Airbnbs.

Questions were raised in relation to organisational changes and the proposed development of a centralised Housing department, and the interim Chief Executive was advised that work was underway to progress this. The appointment to a new post of Strategic Manager for Housing was welcomed, and it was agreed that the details of the service restructure would be communicated to the committee once finalised.

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Digital Transformation, Housing, Homelessness and Poverty, confirmed that the committee would be updated on matters as they progress; and the Committee agreed to continue to monitor the delivery of the Housing Strategy Action Plan.

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Digital Transformation, Housing, Homelessness and Poverty agreed to circulate his thoughts on possible solutions to the delivery of affordable housing.

RESOLVED:

THAT the report be noted.

15 Island Planning Strategy

15a Draft Island Planning Strategy

15b Response to the recommendations of the Task and Finish Group

15c Outcome from the LGA Peer Review of the Planning Service

The Committee received the draft Island Planning Strategy in advance of its next meeting, in addition to the response to the recommendations of the task and finish group, and the outcome from the LGA peer review of the planning service.

Questions were raised in relation to the brownfield regeneration of publicly owned land around County Hall, and whether this would be adopted and included in the Island Planning Strategy. Comments were made in relation to aspects of the document in relation to consultations, education provision, strategic gaps and the area around Sandown airport, electronic vehicle recharging points, and greenfield developments outside of settlement boundaries.

Discussion took place with regards to the approach to scrutinising the document and consideration was given to the formation of a task and finish group. It was agreed that an informal meeting of the Committee would be held in August to discuss the formulation of comments to be approved at the next meeting for submission to the Cabinet.

RESOLVED:

THAT the committee would meet in August to review the draft Island Planning Strategy and would formalise its comments at its next meeting on 6 September 2022; ahead of its adoption by Cabinet on 8 September 2022 and the Full Council on 21 September 2022.

16 Members' Question Time

Cllr Michael Lilley submitted a written question in relation to the former Ryde arena (ice rink). A written response was provided (MQ 13/22).

The chairman asked an oral question on behalf of Cllr Brodie in relation to the Newport Pedestrian Improvements, scheduled for decision by the Cabinet on 14 July 2022, particularly in relation to the consultation with Newport and Carisbrooke Community Council. The Cabinet Member for Levelling Up, Regeneration, Business Development and Tourism provided an oral response and outlined the consultation process.

CHAIRMAN

Member Question time of the Leader

To view any Member questions that were put to the Leader, they will be listed as an additional PDF document below the Member question time of the Leader section within the online minutes, an example is displayed below:

29. Member Question Time of the Leader

- [View the background to item 29.](#)

A question must be submitted in writing on 17 November 2020.

Additional documents:

- [MQ - 15/20](#)  PDF 96 KB

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Corporate Scrutiny Committee – 12 July 2022**Written question from Cllr Michael Lilley to the Chairman of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee:**

RE: Former Ryde Arena (Ice Rink)

Please can IW Council publicly update Ryde and IW Residents on the current and future of the largest empty building on Ryde's seafront which has lay empty now for many years and is simply an eyesore. IW Council supported the Ice Rink campaigners to get the Ice Rink reinstated though supported motions to Full Council and IW Council as the freeholder did take legal action on the leaseholder, AEW, to try and get the lease dissolved. There has been no public update for at least 18 months. The proposed Ice Rink on Smallbrook has failed to progress and the Island Ice Skating/Hockey community have been left with nothing, although Island Skating teams are still travelling to Gosport and winning national and international trophies. There was speculation that the building lease had been sold to a local distillery but now there seems to be total silence. It is important that IW Council through its public faced meetings provides a full update as the Ryde Gateway although being improved by the Ryde Interchange, still has a pressingly dilapidating eyesore of a building.

Response

The IWC has agreed to the assignment of the lease from NY Mellon (AEW) to a prospective new tenant which would facilitate the refurbishment and reuse of the premises . The agreement of terms for a new lease is a matter between those two parties but given the time that has lapsed since the IWC assignment, the council will be writing to the current leaseholder to seek an update on the current position.

It is disappointing that the proposal at Smallbrook has not been able to progress and I can confirm that officers have been and will continue to support local stakeholders in identifying an alternative provision here on the Island

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