



Minutes

Name of meeting	CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Date and Time	TUESDAY 10 JANUARY 2023 COMMENCING AT 5.00 PM
Venue	COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs R Quigley (Chairman), C Quirk (Vice-Chairman), D Adams, J Lever, M Lilley, J Medland, J Robertson and P Spink
Co-opted	Cameron Palin (IWALC)
Also Present	Cllrs I Stephens, J Bacon, C Jarman, J Jones-Evans, P Jordan, and G Brodie Christopher Ashman, Wendy Perera, Christopher Potter, Colin Rowland, Paul Thistlewood, Megan Tuckwell, Melanie White and Simon Wiggins
Also Present (Virtual)	Cllrs D Andre and M Beston Sharon Betts, Steve Crocker, Natasha Dix, Kerry Hubbleday and Chris Ward
Apologies	Cllr W Drew

47 Apologies and Changes in Membership (If Any)

Apologies were received from Cllr Warren Drew.

48 Minutes

RESOLVED:

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2022 be confirmed as a true record.

49 Declarations of Interest

No declarations were received at this stage.

50 Public Question Time - 15 Minutes Maximum

No public questions were received.

51 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. It was noted that an informal meeting to discuss the outcome of the mediation process for the Floating Bridge had been arranged for 31 January 2023.

RESOLVED:

THAT the progress report be noted.

52 Draft Budget Proposals 2023-24

Consideration was given to the general principles and pressures behind the 2023-24 budget. A series of written questions had been submitted by the committee prior to the meeting, and responses were provided. Discussion took place regarding government funding, including the safeguarding of statutory services, progress regarding an 'Island Deal', and the funding implications for town, parish and community councils and the voluntary and community sector. Additional questions were raised in relation to statutory minimum reserves, cross-party collaboration, whether pay-rises had been budgeted for and discussed with unions to avoid possible future strike action, and protections and alternative funding modelling for non-statutory services such as 1Leisure. Assurance was sought that the Leader was confident that the Council could deliver a legal and balanced budget for 2023-24.

RESOLVED:

THAT the update be noted.

53 Committee's Workplan:

53a 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. Discussion took place regarding the 'Disposal of potential housing site(s) in East Cowes' item due for determination by the Cabinet in March 2023. Questions were raised regarding the anticipated restriction of the report under commercial confidentiality and the committee requested a written explanation into the rules around confidentiality to understand why there are different rules for Cabinet and Scrutiny and to put in place a clear policy for all committees to follow. Comments were made in relation to the 'Council Tax Premiums on Second Homes and Empty Properties' item due for determination by the Cabinet in March 2023. It was requested that the matter be added to the committees workplan.

RESOLVED:

THAT the forward plan be noted.

53b Committee's Work Programme 2022-25

Consideration was given to the committee's work programme for 2022-25. It was noted that the committee would consider the budget proposals 2023-24 report at its meeting in February 2023, and it was requested the report be made available to all members as soon as possible. A future update on the progress with the Island Planning Strategy, and a copy of the completed review of leisure centres was requested.

RESOLVED:

THAT the workplan be noted.

54 Cancellation of the Tour of Britain

The committee received a report on the implications of the cancellation of the Tour of Britain event that was due to take place on 11 September 2022, following the death of Queen Elizabeth II. The Cabinet Member for Levelling Up, Regeneration, Business Development and Tourism advised that negotiations were underway to host a future cycling event on the Island. Concerns were raised in relation to the process for recouping losses in light of the cancellation being considered a force majeure; and the subsequent insurance implications and whether the council had been robust in recovering financial losses under the contract. Questions were raised regarding the lessons learned for future insurance protections for major contracts. The committee requested to view a copy of the legal advice that was provided, and to receive clarity on the point raised in the contract that entitled the council to a refund only of host venue fees after real costs had been deducted.

RESOLVED:

THAT the report be noted.

55 Economic Recovery

The committee received a supplementary report which provided a summary of the activities relating to economic recovery since the Corporate Plan was approved in October 2021. Comments were made with regards to the strategy, accountability, the pursuit of an 'Island Deal', the Nicholson Road development, Kickstart initiatives, and what roadblocks were likely to emerge.

RESOLVED:

THAT the report be noted.

56 Members' Question Time

No written questions were received.

CHAIRMAN