



Minutes

Name of meeting	CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Date and Time	TUESDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2021 COMMENCING AT 5.00 PM
Venue	COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	CLLRS S HASTINGS (CHAIRMAN), C QUIRK, G BRODIE, R DOWNER, J MEDLAND, R QUIGLEY, J ROBERTSON, P SPINK
Co-opted	Cameron Palin (IWALC)
Cabinet Members	CLLRS D ANDRE, L PEACEY-WILCOX, J BACON, P FULLER, C JARMAN, J JONES-EVANS, K LOVE, I STEPHENS
Also Present	CLLR MICHAEL BESTON Chris Ashman, Steve Crocker, Natasha Dix, Laura Gaudion, John Metcalfe, Wendy Perera, Chris Potter, Claire Shand, Paul Thistlewood, and Megan Tuckwell Keith Herbert, Laura Moran (Southern Water)
Apologies	CLLR M LILLEY, SHEILA WEEDALL (HALC)

15. **Minutes**

RESOLVED:

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2021 be confirmed as a true record.

16. **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations were received at this stage.

17. **Public Question Time - 15 Minutes Maximum**

No questions were received.

18. **Progress on outcomes and recommendations from previous meetings**

The chairman presented the report which provided an overview of the progress against outcomes from previous meetings.

RESOLVED:

THAT the progress report be noted.

19. Role and Responsibilities of Southern Water in Dealing with Flooding

Representatives of Southern Water were invited to provide the committee with an update in relation to the recent flooding experiences on the Isle of Wight. Discussion took place with regards to flooding and pollution, weekly Environment Agency water quality testing, statistics on flooding and discharges, targets for leakage reduction, and the frequency of flooding.

Questions were raised in relation to Southern Water's ongoing involvement with the Island Planning Strategy consultation, infrastructure, water supply resources, consideration of planning applications ensuring new builds are water efficient, and liaison with other utility companies for planned maintenance to reduce disruption.

Discussion took place with regards to nitrates and the Sandown water treatment plant. It was agreed that the Chairman of the Draft Island Planning Strategy Task and Finish Group would meet with the Area Manager of Southern Water to discuss the matter in depth.

The Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance, Transformational Change provided an overview of the outcomes of a recent meeting held between Southern Water, other Council representatives and the Island's MP. It was agreed that the Council would continue to work closely with Southern Water particularly in relation to the development of major plans and strategies.

RESOLVED:

THAT the actions being taken by Southern Water to alleviate instances of flooding be noted and supported.

20. Items due to be considered by the Cabinet

a) Ryde Transport Interchange Consultation Feedback

It was advised that this item was now due for consideration by the Cabinet at its meeting in October 2021.

b) Housing Civil Penalties

It was advised that this item was now due for consideration by the Cabinet at its meeting in October 2021.

c) Review of options to identify investment proposals for regeneration of Culver Parade tourism opportunity area

It was advised that this item was now due for consideration by the Cabinet at its meeting in October 2021.

d) Quarterly Performance Monitoring Report - Q1

Consideration was given to the report which provided a summary of progress against Corporate Plan activities and measures for the period April to June 2021.

Questions were raised regarding the Council's financial position, particularly in relation to the level of savings from 2020/21 set to be transferred to the Revenue Reserve for capital. The Deputy Leader reassured that the budget setting process was underway which would include an element of reallocation.

Discussion took place in relation to Adult Social Care, including the number of households in temporary accommodation and the steps being taken to address the lack of affordable rented housing. Clarity was provided regarding the ring-fenced funding for Brookline House and the revenue budget position related to care packages and the management of these.

Concerns were raised in relation to the factors behind the rate of number of looked after children when compared with the south east average, and it was suggested that future reporting contain a comparator with similar local authorities.

Discussion took place regarding agile working, and the possible correlation between the impact of home working and the reduced average number of days lost due to sickness per permanent employee.

The ongoing cost pressures in relation to Cowes Floating Bridge were noted, and concerns were raised in response to budget pressures due to the overall loss of £3.3m in income generation as the result of Covid. Discussion took place regarding the Covid Contingency Fund and the Income Protection Scheme.

RESOLVED:

THAT the report be noted.

e) Deployment of Discretionary Business Support Grant

The Committee considered the report which sought the Cabinet's support for the remaining COVID-19 discretionary business grant funds, with details to be agreed by the Cabinet Member in consultation with the Isle of Wight Economic Development Board Executive. No questions were raised.

RESOLVED:

THAT the proposal be noted.

f) Council support to Visit IOW in progressing D BID 2

Cllrs Jonathan Bacon and Richard Quigley declared an interest and withdrew from the meeting for this item.

The Committee considered the report which sought the Cabinet's support for the D BID proposition, to agree to run and manage the legal processes necessary to undertake the ballot of potential levy paying businesses, agree to cast its votes in favour of the D BID proposition, and to set aside the funds required to pay the levy if successful. No questions were raised, and proposal was supported.

RESOLVED:

THAT the proposal be supported.

g) Referral of Motion from Full Council - Newport City Status

Consideration was given to the report which sought the Cabinet's consideration of the motion referred from Full Council on 21 July 2021 requesting that the council prepare an application for city status for Newport in partnership with Newport and Carisbrooke Community Council.

Cllr Geoff Brodie declared an interest as the Chairman of Newport and Carisbrooke Community Council, and as the Ward member for Pan and Barton. It was agreed that no formal comments would be made at this stage as the matter would be the subject of debate at the meeting of Full Council on 15 September 2021.

RESOLVED:

THAT no formal comment be made as the matter was to be the subject of debate at the meeting of Full Council on 15 September 2021.

h) Climate & Environment Strategy

The Committee considered the report which proposed that the Cabinet adopted the Climate and Environment Strategy and Action Plan to meet the net zero target dates of 2030 (council), 2040 (Island-wide), and the suggested target date of 2035 for schools. No questions were raised, and proposal was supported.

RESOLVED:

THAT the proposal be supported.

21. Workplan

21.1 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. No comments or questions were raised that this stage.

RESOLVED:

THAT the forward plan be noted.

21.2 Corporate Scrutiny Workplan

Consideration was given to the current workplan for 2021-22. It was agreed that Cllr Quigley would be the lead member for the item related to social value in the Council's procurement and commercialisation processes, and a lead member for the Investment Strategy review would need to be identified.

RESOLVED:

THAT the workplan be noted.

22. **Members' Question Time**

No written questions were received.

Cllr Quigley asked a question in relation to looking at new streams of income generation. The Chairman indicated that this could be included within the item on the commercialisation strategy due to be considered at the 12 October 2021 meeting.

Cllr Stephens asked that if any member had any suggestions on how the information contained in the forward plan could be improved then they could contact him.

CHAIRMAN