



Agenda Item Introduction

Committee **CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Date **27 FEBRUARY 2024**

Topic **COWES FLOATING BRIDGE**

Background

1. Following a number of technical and financial reviews, the Isle of Wight Council is seeking to best understand the options and recommendations for future operating models for the chain ferry crossing between East and West Cowes across the mouth of the River Medina.
2. The Isle of Wight Council commissioned external consultants from 3S to conduct a review into the Floating Bridge, to be able to report back their findings regarding possible improvements or replacement of the vessel.
3. The Corporate Scrutiny Committee are to review these findings, and to hear directly from 3S, to enable discussion on the future of the Floating Bridge and to put forward recommendations for the Cabinet to take into consideration when making a future decision.

Focus for Scrutiny

- What are the main issues with the current Floating Bridge 6 vessel?
- What improvements could be made to the current Floating Bridge 6 vessel?
- What are the cost implications to making improvements?
- What are the cost implications to designing a new vessel?
- What are the recommended options moving forward?
- How can Corporate Scrutiny assist in the process moving forward?

Document(s) Attached

4. Appendix 1 – Presentation: Cowes Floating Bridge FB6 Operational Review, Prepared for the Isle of Wight Council by 3S Business Review Limited, November 2023.

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