

CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - WORKPLAN SCOPING DOCUMENT

Topic	Cross Solent Ferry Operations
Proposed Committee Date	11 June 2024
Background	<p>The committee have expressed concerns regarding cross Solent ferry operations as the services provided by the ferry operators have a direct impact on the economy and residents of the Island.</p> <p>Isle of Wight ferry services play a pivotal role in the transport of people and goods between the Island and the mainland. As there are no scheduled air services or a fixed link the Island is dependent on its ferry links with the mainland for the delivery of, or access to, many essential goods and services.</p> <p>Island residents use the ferries to travel for work, family, health, and social reasons and can be impacted by high fares and disruption to services.</p> <p>The Isle of Wight Council is the Local Transport Authority for the Island. Decision making for major transport infrastructure spending is devolved to these bodies from the Department for Transport.</p>
Focus For Scrutiny	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the remit of the Local Transport Authority (LTA)? • What powers do the LTA have in influencing cross Solent ferry operations? • What level of interaction does the LTA have with each ferry operator? • What is the LTA doing in making representations to improve cross Solent ferry operations in relation to fares, timetabling and service disruption? • What is the LTA doing to engage with Island residents on improving cross Solent ferry operations? • What are the barriers to influencing and improving cross Solent ferry operations? • How can the committee assist in improving cross Solent ferry operations?
Expected Benefits/ Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee to understand the role and powers the LTA has in relation to cross Solent ferry operations. • The committee to understand the limitations and challenges in influencing cross Solent ferry operations. • The committee to understand the local impact on East and West Cowes. • The committee to put forward any recommendations or suggestions for improvement.
Approach	Committee Report

Witnesses/ Evidence Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leader (with responsibility Transport and Infrastructure, Highways PFI and Transport Strategy, Strategic Oversight and External Partnerships) • Director of Community Services • Evidence from local councillors from East and West Cowes of the impact on the towns economy. • Evidence the Island's MP has previously publicly presented to ascertain what actions he has taken and will take moving forward.
Link(s) To Corporate Plan	<p>Core values: Our purpose is to work with and support the Island's community, finding ways to help it to satisfy its needs independently or to provide services directly where necessary. We value:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Being community focused: This means, wherever possible, putting the needs of our residents first. 2. Working together: This means engaging realistically with partners to make the most of integrated working, helping communities to help themselves and being a strong council team that delivers on these values. 3. Being effective and efficient: This means being the best that we can be in how we organise and deliver our services, using all our limited resources wisely and carefully, getting on with things where we can. 4. Being fair and transparent: This means making decisions based on data and evidence and in an open and accountable way.