

Minutes

Name of meeting	CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Date and Time	TUESDAY 11 JUNE 2024 COMMENCING AT 5.00 PM
Venue	COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs P Spink (Vice-Chair, in the Chair), C Critchison, R Downer, W Drew and J Lever
Co-opted	Simon Cooke (IWALC)
Also Present	Cllrs P Fuller and J Jones-Evans, C Jarman and Holbrook Laura Gaudion, Wendy Perera, Colin Rowland, Megan Tuckwell, Melanie White and Simon Wiggins Steve Holbrook (Ryde Town Board)
Also Present (Virtual)	Cllr P Jordan Sharon Betts, Christopher Potter and Claire Shand
Apologies	Cllrs C Mosdell, G Brodie, M Lilley and J Robertson

1 Apologies and Changes in Membership (If Any)

Apologies had been received from Cllr Geoff Brodie, Cllr Michael Lilley, Cllr Clare Mosdell, and Cllr Joe Robertson.

2 Minutes

RESOLVED:

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 7 May 2024 be confirmed as a true record.

3 Declarations of Interest

No declarations were received at this stage.

4 Public Question Time - 15 Minutes Maximum

No public questions were received.

5 General Exception Decisions/Urgent Decisions

Nothing to report.

6 Progress Update

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

Attention was drawn to the request of the committee in January 2023 to receive a copy of the review of leisure centres once it had been completed. It was noted that this matter would be considered by the committee at its meeting in July 2024. Members of the committee suggested that the report which came before the Cabinet in December 2022 should be disclosed to the committee in advance of the July 2024 meeting.

An update was sought with regards to the request of the committee in February 2023 to receive a copy of the signed heads of agreement in relation to the proposed disposal of Kingston Marine Park. The Cabinet Member for Economy, Regeneration, Culture and Leisure advised that work was progressing well, and activity was underway with a view to lodge a planning application sometime in 2024. The Chief Executive advised that a briefing note could be provided to the committee at its next meeting in July 2024, providing a position statement, a high-level timescale, and outlining any matters outstanding from negotiations.

It was confirmed that a response had been received and circulated following the questions asked at the meeting in May 2024 relating to perpetrator programmes.

RESOLVED:

THAT the progress report be noted.

7 Committee's Workplan:

7a Forward Plan

7b Committee's Work Programme

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 that of one of the policy and scrutiny committees. No matters were identified at this stage.

Consideration was given to the committee's work programme. It was advised that the school place planning report would now be considered by the Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Children's Services at its additional meeting on 23 July 2024. An update on future governance would be presented to the committee at its meeting in July 2024, and an update on flood risk management would be presented to the committee in October 2024.

RESOLVED:

THAT the committee's work programme, and the forward plan, be noted.

8 Ryde Town Board

The chairman of Ryde Town Board was in attendance to provide a verbal update on progress with the development of the Board which would receive £20 million (over 10 years) to invest in local priorities for the benefit of local people.

It was advised that the process of engaging with the public would start imminently to seek the views of the local community. This would take place through a variety of means including; fixed opportunities (such as Aspire, the library, and at the former NatWest building), online (a QR code and the government's national online work), and community outreach (community events, and discussions in schools with both students and teachers).

Once this feedback had been sought, the Board would consider different projects and develop a one-to-three-year plan (and then a more wide-ranging 10-year view) along with the vision and mission of the Board, all to be completed before 31 July 2024 and submitted to the government for ratification.

Questions were raised regarding the government's role as an external body, how the Board would ensure best value for money, the avoidance of going over budget, and the security of future funding given the announcement of a general election in July 2024. Discussion took place regarding the Board's website; and it was requested that the terms of reference be made available, along with information about the Board members. The chairman stated that it was important that the Board operate in an open and transparent manner.

RESOLVED:

THAT the update on the Ryde Town Board be received and noted.

9 Pre-Decision Scrutiny - District 6 TRO Review

The committee received the report which sought the Cabinet's approval of the proposed parking restrictions in Brighstone, Freshwater, Rookley, Shalfleet, Shorwell, Totland and Yarmouth. The chairman advised that he had received and circulated a response to an enquiry on behalf of Freshwater Parish Council.

Cllr Paul Fuller declared a personal interest as he knew the chair of Freshwater Parish Council.

Cllr Chris Jarman declared an interest as the ward member for Totland and Colwell, and as a member of Totland Parish Council and Freshwater Parish Council.

Discussion took place regarding the consultation and engagement with the public, the balance between objections by local residents and overall public safety concerns, the processes for private roads, the introduction of parking restrictions and knock-on impact on neighbouring areas, and the introduction of double-yellow lines on passing places.

Questions were raised regarding the process regarding private roads and any continuing liability as a council, whether double-yellow lines were enforceable on roads which are maintained (but not owned) by the council, and whether the continuous-access signage would be modified to remove any ambiguity.

The Strategic Director of Community Services confirmed that technical details would be sought and provided to the Cabinet ahead of its meeting on 13 June 2024.

RESOLVED:

THAT the contents of the report be noted subject to further information being provided in respect of Freshwater and Newbridge.

10 Policy Framework Annual Review

The committee received the report which provided assurance that the process of reviewing council governance policies had been embedded as business-as-usual activity and provided an update on the policy updates which remained outstanding.

The committee sought assurance that the council was not at any risk due to having policies which were out of date, and the Chief Executive confirmed that any risk was mitigated by the financial regulations that have been updated, and the last four areas would be covered by detailed policies by the deadline of September 2024.

With reference to the DBS policy for staff, it was noted that a report would be brought to Full Council in advance of May 2025, exploring the options for extending this policy to elected councillors.

RESOLVED:

THAT the Policy Framework Annual Review be received and noted.

11 Members' Question Time

No written questions were received. It was agreed that outstanding responses from previous meetings would be added to the committees progress update.

CHAIRMAN