



Minutes

Name of meeting	CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Date and Time	TUESDAY 11 JANUARY 2022 COMMENCING AT 5.00 PM
Venue	COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs S Hastings (Chairman), C Quirk (Vice-Chairman), R Downer, M Lilley, K Lucioni, J Medland and J Robertson
Co-opted (Voting)	C Palin (IWALC)
Cabinet Members	Cllrs D Andre, J Bacon, P Fuller, C Jarman, J Jones-Evans, P Jordan, K Love and I Stephens
Also Present	Cllrs P Brading, G Brodie, S Ellis and M Oliver Natasha Dix, Simon Homes, John Metcalfe, Alex Minns, Brian Pope, Christopher Potter, Colin Rowland, Claire Shand, Paul Thistlewood and Megan Tuckwell
Apologies	Cllrs R Quigley and P Spink

53 Minutes

RESOLVED:

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 15 December 2021 be confirmed.

54 Declarations of Interest

Cllr John Medland declared an interest in minute item 59(e), Deployment of Electric Vehicle Charge Points in Council Car Parks, as he had been involved with the development of the policy on electric vehicle charging.

Cllr Michael Lilley declared an interest in minute item 59(d), Supporting the UNESCO Biosphere, as a trustee director of Wight Community Energy.

Cameron Palin declared an interest in minute item 59(c), School Funding Formula and Budget Setting 2022/23, as an employee at a local authority-maintained school.

55 Public Question Time - 15 Minutes Maximum

Susan Jones of Newchurch submitted a written question related to the Draft Island Planning Strategy task and finish group. A written response was provided. (PQ 01/22)

56 Progress Update

The chairman presented the report which provided an overview of the progress against outcomes and recommendations from previous meetings. Discussion took place regarding the Isle of Wight Community Safety Partnership's strategic plan aimed at reducing reoffending which was agreed for circulation on 9 November 2021. It was advised that the Community Safety Operations Manager had been followed up for a response. Questions were raised regarding the timeframe of the Commercialisation Strategy and the Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance, Corporate Resources and Transformational Change confirmed that the strategy could be expected shortly.

RESOLVED:

THAT the progress report be noted.

57 Commercial Property Acquisition Strategy/ Investment Strategy 2021/22

It was noted that the Committee had previously identified its wish to review the Investment Strategy 2021/22, to review the evaluations and predictions within the strategy to see if outcomes were realised; to identify changes that should be incorporated within the 2022/23 strategy; to assess the part played by the strategy within the overall medium-term financial strategy; and to demonstrate that the investment in commercial property off-Island brought financial benefits to the Council's overall budget. Consideration was given to the item referred by the Audit Committee at its meeting on 27 September 2021, which recommended that this committee look into the financial impact on the councils' revenue by having vacant units. Questions were raised regarding tenants, expected returns, the current portfolio, and the impact of managing commercial property acquisitions in-house,

RESOLVED:

THAT the updates be noted.

58 Budget Proposals 2022-23

During the debate the following interests were declared :-

Cllr Michael Lilley declared an interest as the chair of the Isle of Wight Voluntary Sector Forum, the Mayor of Ryde, and as a member of Ryde Town Council.

Cllr Chris Jarman declared a pecuniary interest as a fundraiser for two principal Island voluntary sector charities and for two cancer charities on the Island and as a trustee of others.

The Deputy Leader and the Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance, Transformational Change and Corporate Resources were invited to provide an update on the key issues faced by the Council in ensuring the delivery of a legal and balanced budget for 2022-23. A series of written questions had been submitted prior to the meeting and responses were provided (attached). Additional questions were raised regarding the budget consultation, debt repayments, work with the voluntary sector, collaboration with town and parish councils, and community assets. The Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance, Transformation Change and Corporate

Resources agreed to look at the arrangements for meeting with the voluntary sector regarding the budget.

RESOLVED:

THAT the update regarding the budget proposals 2022-23 be noted.

59 Items due to be considered by the Cabinet:

59a Name Change - Fairway Athletics Track

Consideration was given to the report which sought the Cabinet's approval to agree to the request from Isle of Wight Athletics Club to change its name to the Ray Scovell Athletics Centre. Concerns were raised regarding consultation with the local councils, and it was confirmed that Lake Parish Council would be contacted ahead of the consideration by the Cabinet.

RESOLVED:

THAT the recommendations be noted.

59b Newport Harbour – Supplementary Planning Document

Consideration was given to the report which sought the Cabinet's approval to publish the draft Newport Harbour Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document for public consultation. Questions were raised regarding the proposed housing numbers on the park site, and it was clarified that the increase was in response to the urgent need for additional housing on the island, particularly family homes with gardens.

RESOLVED:

THAT the recommendations be noted.

59c School Funding Formula and Budget Setting 2022/23

Consideration was given to the report which sought the Cabinet's approval to the 2022/23 school funding formula and wider Dedicated Schools Grant budget allocations. No comments or questions were raised, and the report was noted.

RESOLVED:

THAT the recommendations be noted.

59d Supporting the UNESCO Biosphere

Consideration was given to the report which sought the Cabinet's approval to adopt the 'Supporting the IW UNESCO Biosphere' document and to create and support a Biosphere Steering Committee. Questions were raised regarding the membership of the steering group, how the principles in the document could be integrated into future developments, and the involvement of utility companies in relation to marine conservation zones.

RESOLVED:

THAT the recommendations be supported, and the delivery of actions associated with this matter be monitored by the Committee.

59e Deployment of Electric Vehicle Charge Points in Council Car Parks

Consideration was given to the report which sought the Cabinet's approval to install electric vehicle charge points in council car parks. It was noted that the Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Neighbourhoods and Regeneration had supported the recommendations at its meeting on 6 January 2022. It was suggested that town and parish councils should be consulted with in future regarding the placement of any additional charging points and that schools would be a good location for charging points.

RESOLVED:

THAT the recommendations be noted.

59f Floating Bridge 6 - outcomes from Gateway 5 Review

Consideration was given to the report which sought the Cabinet's approval to note the Gateway 5 Review, to implement the recommendations, and continue the mediation process. Discussion took place regarding the estimated timeframes for resolution and the progress with the mediation process.

RESOLVED:

THAT the recommendations be noted.

59g Hackney and Private Hire Licensing Policy

Consideration was given to the report which sought the Cabinet's approval to adopt the revised Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy. No comments or questions were raised, and the report was noted.

RESOLVED:

THAT the recommendations be noted.

59h Street Trading Policy

Consideration was given to the report which sought the Cabinet's approval to adopt the draft Street Trading Policy. No comments or questions were raised, and the report was noted.

RESOLVED:

THAT the recommendations be noted.

59i Development of Relocatable Homes

Consideration was given to the report which sought the Cabinet's approval to build 20 two-bed relocatable modular homes, subject to the related capital bid being approved by Full Council in February 2022 and the required borrowing being approved. The Committee shared its comments in support of the proposals.

RESOLVED:

THAT the recommendations be fully supported, and the Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Neighbourhoods and Regeneration be requested to monitor progress and be asked to establish a task and finish group on affordable and social housing innovation.

59j Amendments to the Covert Surveillance Policy

Consideration was given to the report which sought the Cabinet's approval to note the recent Investigatory Powers Commissioners Office inspection and to agree the proposed amendments to the policy. No comments or questions were raised, and the report was noted.

RESOLVED:

THAT the recommendations be noted.

60 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 Armed Forces Covenant which was due to be considered by the Cabinet in March 2022.

RESOLVED:

THAT the forward plan be noted.

61 Workplan

Consideration was given to the current workplan for 2021-22. No comments or questions were raised that this stage although it was suggested that there would be a need to consider issues relating to Cowes Floating Bridge once the mediation process had been completed.

RESOLVED:

THAT the workplan be noted.

62 Members' Question Time

Cllr Chris Quirk asked an oral question in relation to access to Covid-19 business grant funding schemes. It was clarified that businesses would need to apply for the

Omicron Hospitality Fund and the Additional Restrictions Grant and details on this would be available shortly.

CHAIRMAN