

LOCAL ECONOMY SCRUTINY PANEL**8 March 2011****Attendance:**

Councillors:

Nelmes (Chairman) (P)

Anthony (P)

Laming

Humby (P)

Hutchison (P)

Love (P)

Power (P)

Sanders (P)

Stallard (P)

Others in attendance who addressed the meeting:

Councillor Bell (Portfolio Holder for High Quality Environment)

Councillor Hiscock (Portfolio Holder for Economic Prosperity)

Others in attendance who did not address the meeting:

Councillor Prowse

1. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Councillors Bell and Hiscock both declared personal and prejudicial interests, due to their involvement as Cabinet Members in the actions taken or proposed in the Reports outlined below.

However, the Panel requested that they remain in the meeting, in their capacity as Portfolio Holders, under the provisions of Section 21(13) (a) of the Local Government Act 2000, in order that they could provide additional information to the Panel and/or answer questions.

2. MINUTES

The Panel agreed to delete a superfluous "up" from the last sentence on page 2. The Panel also noted that its discussion on page 3, regarding ISGs, was superseded by later debate (as recorded on page 6).

RESOLVED:

That, subject to noting the above comments, the minutes of the previous meeting held 3 February 2011 be approved and adopted.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no questions asked or statements made.

4. **DRAFT DETAILED CHANGE PLAN 2011/12 – ECONOMIC PROSPERITY**
(Report LE89 refers)

The Assistant Director (Economic Prosperity) explained that the Report formed part of the consultation process on the Council's Detailed Change Plans for 2011/12. The Change Plans replaced the Council's Business Plans, which had been considered by meetings of the Panel in previous years. The Change Plans were part of the overall framework to deliver the outcomes of the Sustainable Community Strategy, as well as the Council's own "efficient and effective" outcome.

It was explained that each Panel was asked to consider those parts of the Change Plan which were relevant to their area of work.

The Panel therefore considered Appendix 1 of the Report in detail and during debate the following issues were raised and clarified:

- That the business-as-usual work of Teams could still be reported to Members via a rejuvenated array of performance indicators.
- Having noted the number of tasks that had been identified as her responsibility in the Change Plan, it was explained that maternity cover had been provided for the Head of Economy and Arts. However, notwithstanding this, it might be necessary to revisit some of the milestone targets set out in the Report during the course of the year.
- That the Council would continue to subject any future films it commissioned to promote the District to a thorough cost-benefit analysis. Any such films were likely to save money by re-editing existing footage.
- That the Council was working with the County Council to promote greater access to broadband across the District and that further details of this scheme would be reported to Cabinet in due course.
- The also noted that, although some reduction of LEADER rural funding was proposed for 2011/12, it was likely that the Fieldfare Local Action Group for Winchester and East Hampshire would see this money returned later in the year following the full transfer of the regional programme from SEEDA to DEFRA.

Following debate, the Panel raised concerns regarding the latest proposals for the re-surfacing of The Square Winchester, which they wished to highlight to Cabinet. The Panel discussed whether the City Council's aspiration for a higher quality of road surfacing, was dependant on a change to the amount of traffic that would use the road following the works and the Panel requested that Cabinet continue to discuss the matter with the County Council.

The Panel also discussed Council's recent decision to reverse Sunday parking charges and recommended that Cabinet ensure that, to promote local businesses, this decision be enacted as soon as possible, following due process.

Members also discussed the need for the Council to approve the new Local Development Framework as soon as possible and requested that the Portfolio Holder review the 2013 target with the Head of Strategic Planning.

The Panel noted that the Council was now working with two Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs), the Solent LEP and the M3 Enterprise LEP. It was agreed that there should be an action in the Change Plan to ensure appropriate consideration of the rural economy in the evolving relationship with the LEPs.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet be requested to note the following issues arising from the Report:

- a) **That Cabinet be requested to continue discussions with the County Council on the resurfacing of The Square, Winchester**
- b) **That Cabinet be requested to re-introduce free Sunday parking in Winchester as soon as possible, following due process.**
- c) **That the Portfolio Holder for High Quality Environment be requested to ensure that the Local Development Framework is adopted as soon as possible.**
- d) **That an action relating to LEPs be included in the Change Plan**

5. **INFORMAL SCRUTINY GROUPS (ISG) - UPDATE**
(Oral Report)

The Assistant Director (Economic Prosperity) reported that both the Low Carbon Economy ISG and the Planning and Rural Economy ISG were scheduled to report back to the Panel at its next meeting to be held on 18 July 2011.

It was explained that the Planning and Rural Economy ISG had, at its inaugural meeting held on 8 March 2011, agreed its terms of reference and its work programme.

The Panel also noted that, since Councillor Fall was no longer a member of the Panel, the Conservative Group would be invited to ask Councillor Fall if she wished to remain on the Planning and Rural Economy ISG. If she did not wish to remain on that ISG, the Panel requested that the Conservative Group appoint a replacement Member.

RESOLVED:

That the Report be noted.

6. **SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME (REPORT [PS440](#) REFERS) AND MATTERS ARISING.**

RESOLVED:

That, subject to the comments raised during the discussion on the ISGs above, the Report be noted.

7. **VOTE OF THANKS**

As this was the last meeting of the Panel, the Chairman thanked Members and officers who had contributed to the Panel's work and the Chairman's thanks were reciprocated accordingly by all those present.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and concluded at 7.45pm

Chairman