



Notice is hereby given that a **MEETING** of the **COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF GOSPORT** will be held in the **TOWN HALL, GOSPORT** on **WEDNESDAY** the **TWENTY FIFTH** of **MARCH 2015** **THE CONCLUSION OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING, BUT NOT BEFORE 6.00PM** AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE **COUNCIL ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO ATTEND TO CONSIDER AND RESOLVE THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS –**

1. To receive apologies from Members for their inability to attend the Meeting.
2. To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council meeting held on 20 February 2015 (copy herewith).
3. To consider any Mayor's Communications.
4. To receive Deputations in accordance with Standing Order No 3.5 and to answer Public Questions pursuant to Standing Order No 3.6, such questions to be answered orally during a time not exceeding 15 minutes.

**(NOTE: Standing Order No 3.5 requires that notice of a Deputation should be received by the Borough Solicitor NOT LATER THAN 12 O'CLOCK NOON ON MONDAY, 23 MARCH 2015 and likewise Standing Order No 3.6 requires that notice of a Public Question should be received by the Borough Solicitor NOT LATER THAN 12 O'CLOCK NOON ON MONDAY, 23 MARCH 2015).**

5. Questions (if any) pursuant to Standing Order No 3.4.

**(NOTE: Members are reminded that Standing Order No 3.4 requires that Notice of Question pursuant to that Standing Order must be received by the Borough Solicitor NOT LATER THAN 12 O'CLOCK NOON ON TUESDAY, 24 MARCH 2015).**

6. Consideration of recommendations by Boards of the Council: **(To Follow)**

<b>BOARD</b>	<b>DATE</b>
Policy and Organisation Board	18 March 2015

7. To receive the following Part II minutes of the Boards of the Council:

- Community Board: 9 March 2015
- Policy & Organisation Board: 18 March 2015 (To Follow)

8. Chairman's Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee For the Municipal Year 2014-2015

**IAN LYCETT  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**TOWN HALL  
GOSPORT**

17 March 2015

**FIRE PRECAUTIONS**

(To be read by the Mayor if members of the public are present)

**In the event of the fire alarm being activated, please leave the Council Chamber and Public Gallery immediately. Proceed downstairs by way of the main stairs or as directed by GBC staff, follow any of the emergency exit signs. People with disability or mobility issues please identify yourself to GBC staff who will assist in your evacuation of the building.**

**This meeting may be filmed or otherwise recorded. By attending this meeting, you are consenting to any broadcast of your image and being recorded.**

**MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO NOTE THAT:**

**(1) IF THE COUNCIL WISHES TO CONTINUE ITS BUSINESS BEYOND 9.30PM THEN THE MAYOR MUST MOVE SUCH A PROPOSITION IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER 4.11.18**

**(2) MOBILE PHONES SHOULD BE SWITCHED OFF OR SWITCHED TO SILENT FOR THE DURATION OF THE MEETING**

REPORT TO: COUNCIL

DATE OF MEETING: 25 MARCH 2015

**REPORT BY: COUNCILLOR HOOK (CHAIRMAN OF THE POLICY AND ORGANISATION BOARD)**

At its meeting on 18 March 2015 the Policy and Organisation Board considered the report of the Borough Solicitor and the Deputy Chief Executive on the following item and made the following recommendation to Full Council.

**DEVELOPMENT OF THE BUILDING CONTROL PARTNERSHIP**

RECOMMENDATION:

That Gosport Borough Council delegate its building control functions to Portsmouth City Council subject to Portsmouth City Council delegating its building control functions to Gosport Borough Council.

## APPENDIX A

<b>Board/Committee:</b>	POLICY AND ORGANISATION
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> March 2015
<b>Title:</b>	DEVELOPMENT OF THE BUILDING CONTROL PARTNERSHIP
<b>Author:</b>	BOROUGH SOLICITOR AND DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE
<b>Status:</b>	FOR DECISION/FOR RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

### **Purpose**

To update the Board on discussions between Gosport Borough Council(GBC) Fareham Borough Council(FBC) and Portsmouth City Council (PCC) regarding PCC joining the Building Control Partnership (BCP).

### **Recommendation**

1. Policy and Organisation Board approves PCC joining the BCP, as set out in this report, subject to FBC also approving the proposal and notes that an agreement will need to be entered into by all 3 Councils for the delivery of building control functions across all 3 Council areas.
2. Policy and Organisation Board recommend to Council that GBC delegate its building control functions to PCC subject to PCC delegating its building control functions to GBC.

### **1. Background**

- 1.1 Gosport Borough and Fareham Borough Councils, through the Building Control Partnership (BCP), have been jointly providing building control services for over twelve years and these arrangements have been very successful.
- 1.2 For the last two years, the BCP have been providing support and assistance to PCC Building Control service. Following a senior officer level approach from PCC in March 2013 and a PCC feasibility study undertaken in 2014, PCC have now made a cabinet decision to formally request becoming the third member of the BCP.
- 1.3 The Fareham Borough Council Executive is considering the issues set out in this report on 20th April 2015 and it is anticipated that they will agree to allow PCC to join the BCP in accordance with the details in this report.

## 2. Report

The objective of the enlarged partnership would be to provide a further enhanced and resilient service at a lower cost. In terms of the outcomes for both Gosport and Fareham Borough Councils these would include:

- A larger staff base with better capability/flexibility, resilience to positive and negative economic variations and to increased competition.
- "Growing" more surveyors from within a larger staff establishment. Apprentices could also be an option.
- Reducing the impact of PCC Building Control service offering minimal service levels-their existing customers are now beginning to use Approved Inspectors with a corresponding effect when these clients work in the existing BCP area.
- Acquiring more partner companies and increase income based on the ability to provide a complete Building Control service over three local Council areas.
- Creating marketing specialisation within the enlarged staff establishment.
- Gaining structural engineering expertise from within the PCC Building Control staff base leading to potential savings on existing cost of structural checking.
- Creating a larger organisational profile which will be more attractive to new customers and when recruiting staff.
- Sharing management costs, support service charges, centralised office accommodation over three authorities
- Providing increased operational resilience.
- Providing a larger unit with increased potential for developing alternative service delivery models
- Increasing opportunities and resources to secure very large projects planned in all three areas.

The Head of Building Control Partnership has identified that as the enlarged partnership develops and becomes more embedded, there will be opportunities to identify further savings

### **3. Proposals**

- 3.1 It is proposed that PCC be invited to become the third member of BCP.
- 3.2 The existing BCP service levels, procedures, Quality Assurance system, customer charter and corporate governance arrangements are to be the basis for the enlarged Partnership

### **4. Management model**

- 4.1 As with the existing BCP model, the strategic operation of the enlarged partnership will be overseen by the Building Control Partnership Panel. The Panel shall be comprised of the Lead Members and Directors for the Building Control functions at each Council together with the Head of Building Control. The Panel would meet bi-annually. As before, it is not proposed that the panel is a decision making body or a joint committee but will provide political and strategic oversight and recommendations.
- 4.2 The existing Head of the BCP will manage the enlarged Partnership and will be responsible for the day to day management including the monitoring of finances, resources and other equipment to ensure that the partnership can effectively carry out the delegated functions.
- 4.3 An officer panel consisting of the respective Directors will meet with the Head of Building Control and other officers as appropriate at least quarterly to monitor the performance and development of the BCP and the services being delivered and resolve any issues arising.

### **5.0 Main Office location**

- 5.1 The main administration office would remain at the Depot offices, Broadcut, Wallington. It is anticipated that this will become the main office location for PCC administration and surveying staff from mid-July 2015. Movement of staff cannot happen until ICT system merger has taken place-the earliest date is July 2015. The existing office floor space at the Depot offices can accommodate the extra staff.

### **6.0 Presence at PCC**

- 6.1 A Building Control Administration officer will remain at Portsmouth City Council offices covering the hours from 8.30-12, Monday to Friday. Hot desks will be available for additional staff to operate from the Portsmouth office as the need arises.
- 6.2 There will be no changes to the arrangements for staff to work from Gosport Town Hall.



## **7.0 Staffing and establishment**

- 7.1 The current establishment for Building Control at PCC comprises three surveyors and three administration staff on a variety of full and part time contracts, although there are four vacant posts, a Senior Building Control Surveyor and three Assistant Building Control Surveyors.
- 7.2 All existing PCCBC staff will remain employees of PCC and governed by their existing terms and conditions. Contract variations will be applied by PCC to reflect Partnership working. This is in line with the current BCP arrangement between FBC and GBC.
- 7.3 The new BCP structure will have two area teams-East and West plus a special projects team together with an administration/technical team. Staged PCC recruitment to this structure will depend on income generation.

## **8.0 ICT**

- 8.1 PCC do not use the same IT systems as the BCP and work to migrate their systems should be completed summer 2015. The costs of this work will be borne by PCC.
- 8.2 There are no other changes proposed and all BCP surveyors will be able to work from home, from any office location and to have connectivity during the working day. Appropriate equipment will be provided.

## **9.0 Financial Implications**

- 9.1 There are no direct costs to GBC associated with this proposal. Initial savings will be generated by the recharging of management time to PCC from the commencement of the partnership and this will result in annual savings of £15K to both GBC and FBC.
- 9.2 Further efficiencies and cost savings are likely as the enlarged partnership is fully integrated and the requirement for support services is reviewed.
- 9.3 FBC will remain as financial host to the enlarged partnership
- 9.4 It is proposed to harmonise charge levels across the new partnership area and this is a decision for each Council.
- 9.5 PCC will be responsible for any budgetary deficits within their portion of the budget at year end and a financial mitigation clause will be inserted into the new agreement to reflect this.
- 9.6 This is to ensure that the cost of non-chargeable services

provided to PCC by BCP is fully funded either via the original PCC budget commitment or from a subsequently revised budget drawdown to cover any deficit.

9.7 PCC will cover the implementation costs in respect of them joining the BCP. These cost are for merging the IT systems, purchasing equipment to allow PCC staff to operate in the same manner as BCP staff and other costs amounting to £43000

9.8 The existing funding in the BCP business reserve would not be available to PCC.

**10.0 Legal Implications**

10.1 It will be necessary for a revised Partnership agreement to be entered into by all 3 Councils and this will be based on the existing agreements that are in place for the BCP.

10.2 As staff from PCC may be working on matters within Gosport's area and vice versa it is necessary for the Council to formally delegate its building control function to PCC and PCC will need to formally delegate its building control function to GBC. This reciprocal delegation with FBC is already in place.

**11.0 Risk Assessment**

11.1 An assessment of the risks and opportunities associated with this decision are summarised in the following table;

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
Existing PCC Building Control reputation	Partnership will be viewed positively by clients on the basis of BCP's good reputation. Full marketing based on new Partnership
Resources not being available to develop partnership	Existing BCP establishment will be fully staffed during integration, additional hours, casual contracts and overtime may need to be offered/extended
PCC Building Control staff attitudes/low morale	PCC Building Control staff have a positive attitude towards BCP and see Partnership working as the answer to resource issues and lack of direction
Different terms and conditions for staff working across three	Alternative delivery models for Partnership working to

members areas of the enlarged Partnership	be investigated and adopted if suitable
Potential funding gaps for PCC service provision	Mitigation clauses to be inserted in agreement to ensure PCC have responsibility for any deficit generated on their part of the budget
Reduced service to FBC and GBC during integration	Existing BCP establishment will be fully staffed during integration, additional hours, casual contracts and overtime may need to be offered/extended
PCC not embracing Partnership principles	BCP panel structure and governance will provide a tried and tested mechanism for joint working and focus
Effect on very good existing BCP working relationships/harmony	Existing BCP management structure is very experienced and resilient with good quality member involvement and experienced staff
Larger overall financial and staff base potentially more affected by negative economic variations and loss of income	New BCP staff establishment will still contain four senior level surveyors already on flexible retirement plus one within 2 years of retirement. BCP also have one senior surveyor on a fixed term contract. The administration establishment will contain at least two staff with potential for reduced hours/retirement
Complicated financial and reconciliation system between three authorities	Alternative delivery models for Partnership working to be investigated and adopted if suitable

## 12.0

### **Conclusion**

#### 12.1

The drivers for the development and provision of shared services including the provision of services through collaborative or partnership working are increasing.

12.2 All three Councils are also faced with making financial savings and the arrangements that are proposed in this report will enable savings to be made whilst at the same time improving the resilience of the service being provided to meet the needs of the constituent Councils. As the partnership develops and becomes more embedded, there will be opportunities to identify further savings.

<b>Financial Services comments:</b>	None
<b>Legal Services comments:</b>	See Section 4
<b>Crime and Disorder:</b>	
<b>Equality and Diversity:</b>	There are no equality issues arising from this report and its recommendations. Therefore, an Equality Impact Assessment is not required.
<b>Service Improvement Plan implications:</b>	No implication
<b>Corporate Plan:</b>	No implications
<b>Risk Assessment:</b>	See Section 5
<b>Background papers:</b>	Nil
<b>Appendices/Enclosures:</b>	Nil
<b>Report author/ Lead Officer:</b>	John Shaw

**A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY BOARD  
WAS HELD ON 9 MARCH 2015 AT 6PM**

The Mayor (Councillor Gill) (ex-officio) (P), Chairman of the Policy and Organisation Board (Councillor Hook) (P), Bateman, Mrs Batty, Burgess (P), Mrs Cully (P), Dickson (P), Edgar (P), Foster-Reed (P), Hazel (P), Mrs Hook (P), Hylands (P), Mrs Morgan (P), Murphy (P)

It was reported that in accordance with Standing Order 2.3.6, Councillors Hook, and Mrs Wright had been nominated to replace Councillors Bateman and Mrs Batty for this meeting.

**PART II**

**37 RIVER HAMBLE TO PORTCHESTER COASTAL FLOOR AND EROSION RISK AND MANAGEMENT STRATEGY – ADOPTION**

Consideration was given to a presentation by Mr Mark Stratton of the Coastal Partnership to seek approval of the final strategic policies proposed to sustainably address coastal flood and coastal erosion risk for a 58km frontage running from Portchester Castle, in Portsmouth Harbour, to Burr ridge, on the east bank of the River Hamble.

The presentation summarised projects carried out to date, strategic options, case studies and the future proposals to maintain and protect flood defences.

Members were advised that the Strategy had now finished a 3 month period of public consultation. As part of this, there had been four successful drop-in events across the Fareham and Gosport area.

Mr Stratton further advised that the strategy was being undertaken in 2 stages:

- Stage 1 the Scoping Phase - work had been completed to assess and compile evidence required to develop a comprehensive, sustainable strategy that promoted technically, environmentally and economically sound defence measures for the coast.
- Stage 2 the Development Phase – would look at the outputs from the scoping phase to implement a programme of work that would propose proportionate coastal management options or flood defence schemes along the strategy frontage.

In conclusion, Members were advised that the Strategy provided a long term future plan. The evidence gathered would be used to secure funding for future flood and coastal erosion risk management and provide the framework to deliver the Management Plan.

Following Members concerns in relation to Haslar sea wall, Members were advised that as part of the Haslar re-development, planning applications received from the developers had indicated that they would be seeking to maintain the sea wall for public access.

**RESOLVED:** That the Community Board approve the strategy and management

options for Strategy Management Zone 2 (Gosport and Fareham, Portsmouth Harbour West) and Strategy Management Zone 3 (Lee-on-the-Solent and Stokes Bay) as set out in Appendix A of the report.

### **38. GOSPORT SCHEME OF ALLOCATIONS**

Consideration was given to the report of the Housing Services Manager seeking approval of recommended changes set out in the report.

Members were advised that there were no further updates to the report.

A Member sought clarification as to why in Section 7 paragraph 4a of the appendix that, “at the discretion of the Housing Services Manager” had been omitted, but that it had been included in the report. It was confirmed that this would be included in the appendix.

Following a Members question in respect of providing detailed photographs of properties for people to bid on, it was confirmed that improvements were being progressed to enhance the advertisements and build a housing stock portfolio.

Following discussions in relation to financial qualifications, it was advised that as recommended in the report, discretion would be given to the Housing Services Manager and means tested on an individual basis.

**RESOLVED:** That the Community Board approve the Scheme of Allocation set out in Appendix A of the report with the provisions relating to Direct Lets and Sanctions for Repeat Refusals introduced from 1 April 2015.

### **39. THE WASTE (ENGLAND AND WALES) REGULATIONS 2011 (AMENDED 2012)**

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive seeking Members approval of the assessment of Gosport’s waste and recycling collection arrangements, to comply with the requirements of The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 (Amended 2012).

Members were advised that there were no further updates to the report.

In response to a Members question, the Head of Streetscene confirmed that additional locations across the Borough for glass recycling banks were being sought. It was further reported that glass recycling bins were fitted with a rubber interior to reduce the impact of noise.

**RESOLVED:** That the Board approve the retention of the current Hampshire wide arrangements for the collection of recyclables (co-mingled and not separated) as:

- a) it is not necessary to collect recyclable materials separately in Gosport in order to facilitate or improve recovery; and that
- b) it is not technically, environmentally and economically practicable to do so.

### **40. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED:** That in relation to the following item the public be excluded from the meeting, as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during this item there would be disclosure to them of exempt information within Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, and further that in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemptions outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, for the reasons set out in the report.

**41. ICE CREAM CONCESSIONS – STOKES BAY AND LEE-ON-THE-SOLENT**

Consideration was given to an exempt report of the Housing Services Manager advising the Board of the results of an open tender exercise to re-let the Stokes Bay and Lee-on-the-Solent Ice Cream Concessions, offering a 4 year agreement, commencing 1 April 2015, for each of the concessions.

**RESOLVED:** That the Board approve a proposal to award the Lee-on-the-Solent Ice Cream Concession as set out in the report, and authorise the Housing Services Manager, in conjunction with the Head of Legal Services, to enter into a four year licence agreement.

**42. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was none

The Meeting concluded at 6.56pm

CHAIRMAN

**A MEETING OF THE POLICY AND ORGANISATION BOARD  
WAS HELD ON 18 MARCH 2015**

The Mayor (Councillor Gill) (ex-officio) (P) Burgess (P), Chegwyn (P), Hicks (P), Hook (Chairman) (P), Jessop (P), Langdon (P), Philpott (P), Ronayne (P), Mrs Wright (P) and Wright (P)

**PART VIII**

**48. DEVELOPMENT OF THE BUILDING CONTROL PARTNERSHIP**

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Solicitor and Deputy Chief Executive updating the Board on discussions between Gosport Borough Council, Fareham Borough Council and Portsmouth City Council regarding PCC joining the Building Control Partnership.

Members recognised that the existing partnership was very successful and welcomed the extension of it.

**RESOLVED** That;

- 1) The Policy and Organisation Board approve Portsmouth City Council joining the Building Control Partnership, as set out in the report, subject to Fareham Borough Council also approving the proposal and notes that an agreement will need to be entered into by all 3 Councils for the delivery of building control functions across all three Council areas; and that;
- 2) The Policy and Organisation Board recommend to Council that Gosport Borough Council delegate its building control function to Portsmouth City Council, subject to Portsmouth City Council delegating its building control functions to GBC.

**PART II**

**49. JUNIOR GOLF ACADAMY AT LEE-ON-THE SOLENT GOLF CLUB**

Consideration was given to a request from Lee-on-the-Solent Golf Club for a contribution of £5000 towards the provision of a 5 hole Academy Course.

Members were advised the Fareham Borough Council had agreed to contribute £5000 towards the provision of the Course. In answer to a Member's question, the Board were advised that it was the ambition of the club to increase youth membership, including additional members from Gosport.

**RESOLVED:** That the Policy and Organisation Board approve a £5,000 contribution to Lee-on-the-Solent Golf Club towards the provision of a 5 hole academy course subject to:

- i. Fareham Borough Council making a similar contribution; and that;
- ii. The Club enters into a Community Use Agreement that included provision for any young person between 5 years and 18 years to become a member of the Club and Academy without restrictions.

## **50. GOSPORT MARINE FESTIVAL**

**Note: Councillors Burgess and Chegwyn declared that they had awarded the Festival grants from their devolved County Council budget; they remained in the room and took part in the discussion and voting thereon.**

The Board were advised that a request had been received from the organisers of Gosport Marine Festival for the Council to provide a trophy for the Gosport Peninsular Charity pursuit race.

Members welcomed the work being undertaken by the Marine Scene and that they had held a very successful boat jumble. Members welcomed such a high profile event on the waterfront.

In answer to a Member's question, the Board were advised that it was hoped the trophy would be presented by Sir Ben Ainslie and that the Mayor would present the Turk Town Trophy. It was also confirmed that the trophy would be presented and then returned to the Town Hall.

**RESOLVED:** That the Policy and Organisation Board agree to the request to provide a trophy for the Gosport Peninsular Charity pursuit race with the Gas Works Trophy being used for the event.

## **51. STAFFING REPORT – LOCAL TAXATION SECTION**

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Treasurer recommending a staffing restructure of the local taxation section.

Members welcomed the potential increase in revenue.

**RESOLVED:** That the new staff structures as detailed in Paragraph 2 and Appendix B of the report of the Borough Treasurer be approved.

## **52. TENDERS FOR THE COUNCIL'S INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS FROM APRIL 2015**

Policy and Organisation Board  
18 March 2015

By reason of special circumstances, the Chairman determined that the following item be considered at this meeting notwithstanding the fact that the item had not been available for public inspection in accordance with the provisions of Section 100B(4)(a) of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985.

The reason for the urgent item was that the Council's current tender ends on 31 March 2015 so the Council would need to send out the letters to the appointment as soon as possible.

The reason for the delay in the report was that further market testing was carried out by retendering on a Gosport only basis to ensure the collaborative approach was producing best value for the Council. The resulting tenders received coming in at over £50,000 more than the collaborative approach indicated that this was the case.

Members expressed disappointment that there had been an increase in the premium, but recognised that this was as a result of hardening insurance markets. Members recognised premiums had been reduced significantly since 2009.

In answer to a Member's question, the Board were advised that Lot 6 Casualty covered the public liability element of insurance.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council renew its insurances with the insurers listed below as detailed in Paragraph 5.1 for a period of three years from 1 April 2015 with the option to extend for a further two years at the Council's discretion to 31 March 2020.

Property – Allianz Insurance PLC  
Casualty and Motor – Risk Management Partners Ltd (RMP)  
Fidelity, Engineering, PA and Travel - Zurich Municipal PLC (ZM)  
Terrorism – Caitlin Ltd.

**53. ANY OTHER ITEMS**

There were none.

The meeting ended at 18.15

**CHAIRMAN**

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**TITLE: CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2014-2015**

**AUTHOR: COUNCILLOR BOB FORDER**

Six meetings of the full committee were called during the course of the council year, and a further extraordinary meeting is planned.

The Committee published the following report

### Bus Services with the Borough of Gosport

This report concluded a lengthy enquiry undertaken by a working group comprising Cllrs Farr, Scard, Beavis and Forder. The working group was serviced by Lisa Young (Democratic Services Officer) and David Duckett (Head of Transport and Traffic). The group met on five occasions as well as there being many informal and informal contacts by email, letter, telephone and face-to-face. During the meetings evidence was taken from a Hampshire County Council officer, a Fareham Borough councillor and the Managing Director of First Bus.

The Report made five main recommendations which were subsequently adopted by the Council.

### Reports received

#### 1. Single Equality Bill

The Head of Policy and Community Safety presented her annual report to the Committee and answered questions.

#### 2. Housing Allocations Policy

Housing officers made a detailed, illustrated verbal report on this subject. This presentation provoked much discussion during which officers answered a number of points.

#### 3. Polling Places Review

Consideration was given to this report authored by the Borough Solicitor and Deputy Chief Executive. Following discussion the Committee resolved to recommend the proposals for Polling Districts and Polling Places to Council which subsequently adopted them.

#### 4. Waste Policies

The Chief Executive reported on the implementation of policies designed to meet legislative requirements.

#### 5. Grounds Maintenance

The Head of Streetscene updated Members on progress made with the Grounds maintenance contract and the improvements officers are endeavouring to secure. It was agreed that in future the Head of Streetscene would report to the Committee each September.

#### Other work

##### Educational issues

Brian Pope, Area Director for the Hampshire County Council Inspection and Advisory Service, made a detailed presentation on the attainment of Gosport primary school children at an Extraordinary Meeting on 28 July. He was accompanied by a colleague and Councillor Edgar, Executive Member for Education, Hampshire County Council. The Committee was pleased to learn of the substantial improvements in measured attainment secured recently, and the closure of the gap between Gosport pupils' attainment and that of other pupils in Hampshire.

The meeting with Brian Pope was followed by visits to Gomer Infants School and the Haven Nursery School on 19 November organised under the auspices of the Committee but to which all Members were invited. The visits were considered "uplifting and encouraging".

On 10 November there was a visit to CEMAST College when the Principal, Nigel Duncan, explained the aims, plans for and development of the College. This visit was also open to all Members and was very well attended and received.

##### Porchester Crematorium

The Committee received some evidence on the impact on Porchester of the opening of the new crematorium at Havant. It was agreed that the Council's Porchester Crematorium representatives should be invited to report to the Committee if they considered this appropriate.

#### Future plans and on-going scrutinies

##### Vocational Education

Subsequent to the visit to CEMAST the Committee will receive a presentation from Philip Walker, Hampshire County Council Manager

(Post-14 Learning) on the sufficiency of vocational provision within the Borough on 17 March at an extraordinary meeting.

#### Fort Brockhurst and English Heritage

A working group has met to determine the scope of this enquiry and resolved to invite representatives of English Heritage to give evidence. The working group has been charged with investigating what measures could be taken to improve public access to the Fort Brockhurst site.

#### Interpretation Panels

A working group has been established to investigate the measures that might be taken to develop provision with the possible involvement of voluntary groups.

#### Allotments

The Chairman will attend a meeting of the Allotment Stakeholders Group on 16 March to investigate whether the Committee could play a useful role in making proposals about changes to the way in which allotments are managed.

#### Chairman's comments

The Chairman remains indebted to those members who have served on the Committee, particularly those who have given up substantial time to serve or lead working groups. He is also grateful to those officers who have worked hard to ensure the success of the Committee.