

**A MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
WAS HELD ON 11 DECEMBER 2013**

Councillors Allen(P), Mrs Cully(Chairman)(P),Farr(Vice Chairman)(P),Foster-Reed,  
Geddes(P),Gill(P),Hylands(P),Jacobs, Jessop(P),Mrs Morgan, Kimber (P),Scard(P)

**12. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were received from Councillor Jacobs and Councillor Mrs Morgan.

**13. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**14. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 11 SEPTEMBER 2013.**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 11 September 2013 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

**15. REPORTS RECEIVED**

(i) PROMOTION OF THE BOROUGH (SOCIAL MEDIA)

A verbal update was provided by the Head of Information Technology regarding the promotion of the Borough.

It was reported that Gosport Borough Council currently had 13 social media accounts and that procedures were in place to monitor and authorise activities.

It was also confirmed that Units wishing to create a social media account need to demonstrate a business need.

Members were advised that guidance will be published on the GBC Infonet to assist staff on blogging terminology and protocols.

Further to a question from a Member, it was agreed that statistics be presented at the next committee meeting advising the frequency of account usage.

It was reported that the Safer Neighbourhood Team social media account had attracted a large volume of visitors and that this was particularly useful in cascading information to residents quickly.

Concerns were raised with the potential miscommunication of information and it was advised that all Social Media Accounts are monitored by GBC staff and a moderator is on hand to moderate when and where necessary, also specific guidance on the use of social media during the sensitive election period will be published.

Officers would be discussing how to manage these social media accounts during the Election period.

**RESOLVED:** That a report containing statistics of social media usage be brought back to the next Committee meeting.

(ii) GOSPORT TAXI RANK

Consideration was given to a verbal report from Russell Bray providing the Committee with an update on the Gosport Taxi Rank.

Members were advised that the Public Highway area extends up to the entrance onto the Falkland Gardens Taxi Rank and at peak times there is a heavy and competing demand for access leading to significant egress onto and from the Public Highway area that leads onto the taxi rank.

It was reported that the main issues identified at the taxi rank were:

- Taxi's double queuing back out onto Mumby Road.
- Members of the public driving into the "time limited" parking bays.
- Members of the public vehicle users and private hire vehicles using the "drop off" area.
- Staff employed at Endeavour Quay exiting from their car-park and being blocked.

Members were further advised that to relieve the pressure on the Falkland Gardens Taxi Rank, a taxi rank in Walpole park and a local taxi operator at the rear of a Public House in Minnett Road had been set up.

At peak commuting times between 1600 and 1800 hours there are competing demands to use the limited public highway area from queuing taxis waiting to enter the taxi rank, Private Hire Vehicles and members of the public driving private vehicles using the designated "drop off" area, members of the public driving private vehicles accessing and leaving the restricted time parking bays and employees vehicles leaving Endeavour Quay private car park. The situation will continue to be monitored by Licensing Officers and the Gosport Traffic Warden.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted and Officers continue to monitor the operation of the taxi rank.

(iii) DISABLED FACILITIES GRANT PROCESS

Consideration was given to a report from Councillor Hylands briefing members on the Disabled Facilities Grant process.

It was reported that Members of the Working Steering Group were happy that Portsmouth City Council offered a value for money service to GBC.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

(iv) TEXTILE RECYCLING

Consideration was given to a verbal report from Councillor Kimber.

Members were advised that the steering group, made up of Councillors Kimber, Jessop, Hylands and Mrs Cully had met on the 20<sup>th</sup> November 2013 to discuss the textile recycling scheme

It was reported that representatives for the scheme have been invited to give a presentation on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2014.

Further to a question it was advised that investigations would take place to determine if a green bin located in Beauchamp Avenue was positioned on Private or Public land.

**RESOLVED:** That a report be brought back to the next Committee meeting.

(v) VASCULAR SURGERY QA HOSPITAL

Consideration was given to a verbal report from the Chief Executive updating Members on Vascular Surgery at QA Hospital.

It was advised that Simon Holmes of QA Hospital visited Gosport Borough Council on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2013 giving a presentation to Members of the Committee on Vascular Surgery Services and the impact a move would potentially have.

It was reported that a letter from Debbie Fleming (area Director of Wessex NHS England) dated 5<sup>th</sup> December 2013 had been received advising that a stakeholder letter was being finalised which would provide an update on the current position.

Members were advised that a Motion was before Full Council at the meeting scheduled on 18 December 2013 setting out the Councils opposition to the proposed move..

**RESOLVED:** That a further report is presented to the next Committee meeting.

**16. DEVELOPMENT OF A WORK PROGRAMME**

A) REQUESTS FOR SCRUTINY

**Portchester Crematorium** – Review of Portchester Crematorium to take place to see any impact made from the opening of Havant Crematorium.

**Waste Policy** – Review changes made to the policy and monitor fly tipping in the Borough.

B) WORK PROGRAMME

The work programme was updated to reflect the above scrutiny requests.

C) OTHER SUGGESTIONS FOR SCRUTINY

There were no other suggestions for scrutiny

**17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

It was reported that an Interim Head Teacher, Mrs Thackeray had been appointed at Bridgemaury School.

Members were advised that Brune Park exam results had showed a significant improvement.

Members were advised that the Principle at St Vincent college was retiring and that routes to explore combining education services with Bay House Sixth Form college were being looked into.

The Meeting concluded at 7.30pm

**CHAIRMAN**