

**Notes from the meeting held on 26th June 2019**

**Held at Riverside, The Quay, Newport, PO30 2QR**

**Present**

**Mike Bulpitt (Community Action IOW), Anna Swan (Footprint Trust), Stuart Hutchinson (IOW Council), Michael Lilley (Chair), Paul Savill (CABIW) Sally List (Mountbatten), Mary Seymour (Applegate Support Group), Claire Tillman (CAIW)**

**Apologies**

**Jo Dare, Lizzie Martin**

**Dates for the next meeting(s):**

Please note the following dates:

**25th September 9.30 to 11.30**

**13th November 9.30 to 11.30**

**All meetings to be held at Riverside, The Quay, Newport.**

**Suggestions for core topics to be covered would be very welcome.**

1. Feedback from the previous meeting was that the presentation by Paul Thistlewood had been useful.
2. Stuart Hutchinson gave an outline of the IOW Council Budget.

Current portfolio is £150M. Turnover is 400 million includes 50 million that the IOW Council administers in terms of benefits. The Council needs to make 4.5 million worth of savings. Savings for 2019/20 include: Adult Social care, Public Health and Housing Needs 3.2%, Childrens Services 2.1%, Community Safety and Public protection 2.5%, Environment and Heritage 2.4%, Infrastructure, Planning and Strategic Partnerships 0%, Planning and Housing Renewal 3.1%, Procurement, projects, Forward Planning and waste 2.2%, Regeneration and Business Development 2.4% and Resources 5.3%. Council has taken a debt repayment holiday. There is 9.5 million from the government to improve Coppins Bridge and the Council are developing income streams and has borrowed to invest in commercial hot spots. Other successes include is garden waste and libraries run by volunteers.

Particular issue around social housing. Per the Government guidelines, we are supposed to be building 647 houses a year. Generally, 250 to 300 are built. To keep pace a number of options will need to be considered including perhaps the use of pre-fabricated buildings. Need the right number of houses in the right place. It is a challenge.

**How the budget is decided:**

Overall savings requirement £4.5M each year over the next two years, this is translated onto equal saving for each service. It is then % weighted to allow for service pressures, any additional known funding specific to the service, ability to alter service delivery and ability to generate income. This then becomes the final saving.

Indicative proposals published and changes and amendments following consultation and other proposals are made. Final budget published at late February Council Meeting.

**Priority order for achieving savings:**

Reduce expenditure without impacting services, look for new income streams e.g. parking charges, reduce income from existing sources, transfer cost elsewhere e.g. parish councils (60,000 a year is given out by the Parish Councils it is possible to obtain funding this way. Lobby your local council), increase domestic rates, reduce services, and stop services.

**How to enhance joint working:**

Talking to Cabinet member as early as possible. Cllr Mosdale or CllrBrading. First Star Chamber is in July and indicative savings will be outlined in October. So contact them now to see if a discussion is possible.

In terms of service provision and making a case for this, Michael Lilley mentioned information/data we can utilise from the Local Government Association. We should use this, as it is resource already paid for and can help demonstrate a need.

**Round Table**

* Paul Savill said that it is important to see the Voluntary Sector as part of the solution. For example when cutting grass verges was changed residents started to cut the verges themselves which defeated the point of what was trying to be achieved. The Voluntary Sector could have taken on a role in this. Michael Lilley will take to Scrutiny the idea of an investigative group to look at funding of the Voluntary Sector.
* Mike Bulpitt and Claire Tillman to meet with Laura Gaudion to discuss the combining of the Voluntary Sector Forum and the group running at the Voluntary Sector Group run at the Council
* Mountbatten Neighbour Scheme are looking to recruit 60 volunteers. These are people who can go out into the community and support people in their own homes.
* Citizens Advice now have an Advice First Aiders.

**Future meetings/Possible Topics**

1. The Island Plan in particular housing development.
2. Meeting with the Police Commissioner
3. Winter is Coming