

Councillor George Brown - Cowes North Ward

Annual Report May 2011

Deputy

- Assisted Leader and deputised on occasions.

Economy

- Maintained close connection with Economic Development Contractor.
- Monitored progress of Economic Development Action Plan.
- Attended the Economy and Environment Partnership Board of ISP.
- Met Minister of State in the Dept of Energy Change, Charles Hendry MP, and the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State in Department of Communities and Local Government, Bob Neill MP, about different aspects of the Island's economy.
- Attended Economic Development Panel of Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) and promoted the Island's economy.
- Assisted in negotiations with expanding Island businesses.

Tourism

- Met John Penrose MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State in Department of Culture Media and Sport, to promote Island tourism.
- Met Christopher Rodrigues, Chairman of VisitBritain, to promote Island tourism.
- Focused the Council's destination promotion activity.
- Continued delivery of IWC obligations under Memorandum of Understanding with CCTI.

Leisure

- Concentrated limited budget on priority areas.
- Devolved control of seasonal sites.

Planning

- Reported substantial operational improvement, including enforcement.
- Policy developments surrounding Core Strategy submission.

Assets

- Involved in revised strategic management structure.

Culture

- Presented policy proposals on libraries for Cabinet approval and monitored ongoing negotiations.

#### Ward work

- Continuing attention to the needs of residents.

#### Challenges

- Increasing Island employment, especially in 18-24 age range.
- Achievement of proposed Solent Energy Information Centre and tidal energy equipment test site with majority funding by private sector.
- Government approval of Island Plan Core Strategy.
- Completion of Library Service reorganisation.
- Completion of Leisure Centre reorganisation and renovation.
- Determination of Ventnor Botanic Garden realignment with community groups.
- Practical planning for heritage security.
- Disposal of surplus assets.

George Brown

17.05.11