

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Daedalus Scrutiny Panel

(to be confirmed at the next meeting)

Date: Monday, 27 March 2023

Venue: Collingwood Room - Civic Offices

PRESENT:

Councillor S Dugan (Chairman)

Councillor Mrs J Needham (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors: M J Ford, JP, Mrs P Hayre and Mrs K Mandry

Co-Opted

Members: Mr Jonathan Butts

Also Present: Councillor S D T Woodward, Executive Member for Policy and Resources (Item 6)



1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies of absence were received from Councillor Mrs S M Bayford, and Councillor J Englefield.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Daedalus Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 1 September 2022 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Chairman's announcements made at this meeting.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISCLOSURES OF ADVICE OR DIRECTION

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

5. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations made at this meeting.

6. PRESENTATION - EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS OUTCOMES

The Panel received a presentation by the Strategic Sites Development Officer on employment and skills outcomes on the Daedalus site. (A copy of this presentation is appended to these minutes).

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor S D T Woodward, Executive Member for Policy and Resources addressed the Panel on this item.

Members discussed at length the difficulties that is experienced with broadband at Daedalus and that the expectation for the availability of high-speed broadband by companies had significantly increased over the past few years. Whilst members accept that the Council has tried to engage with broadband companies regarding this issue and that there is very little more than can currently be done to resolve this issue, they encourage Officer's to continue to investigate this issue and to work alongside Gosport Borough Council to try to find a resolution.

RESOLVED that: -

(a) The Strategic Sites Development Officer be thanked for her informative presentation; and

(b) The Panel note the content of the report.

7. EXECUTIVE BUSINESS

There were no items of Executive business to consider at this meeting.

8. SCRUTINY PRIORITIES

The Head of Strategic Sites addressed the Panel on this item and advised the members of a number of items that would be coming forward to the Panel in the coming year.

The Panel were given the opportunity to put forward any further suggestions that they may have. Mr Jonathan Butts enquired as to whether an update on the RCA contract could be presented to the Panel. The Head of Strategic Sites confirmed that RCA's Annual Report on the management and operation of Solent Airport will come forward to the Panel later in the year.

The Head of Strategic Sites addressed the Panel in respect of the Daedalus Vision and suggested that an item on this be brought to the Panel during the next year. It was acknowledged that it has been some time since the vision was revisited. She suggested that the Panel would also benefit from an update of the progress and the achievements that have been made since 2018.

9. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED that the public and representatives of the press be excluded from the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that the matters to be dealt with involve the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in Paragraph 3, Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

10. PRESENTATION - DAEDALUS MARKETING

The Panel received a presentation by the Head of Asset Management on the commercial opportunities offered by the Council at Daedalus and how these are marketed.

RESOLVED that: -

- (a) The Head of Asset Management be thanked for his informative presentation; and
- (b) The Panel note the content of the report.

(The meeting started at 6.00 pm
and ended at 6.47 pm).

Business Engagement At Daedalus

Rachel Hick
Strategic Sites Development Officer

Daedalus Vision 2015



Employment at Daedalus

Accurate employment data held only by businesses and HMRC Limited, incomplete public data available

Direct engagement with each business is required

Added value to FBC building strong relationships

Positives

Location, location, location

Symbiotic relationships with other businesses on-site at Daedalus

FBC = supportive landowner with enthusiasm for maintaining airfield

Apprenticeships through CEMAST

Benefits of facilities at F.I.C.

New developments at airfield: AGL

Challenges

Poor broadband coverage

Increased costs due to current global climate

Difficulty recruiting

Businesses generally maintaining or reducing staff numbers

Patchy experience of apprenticeships

Key messages

General health of businesses
across the Daedalus site

Employment data

Ambitions for growth

Building ongoing relationships

Value of airport, FIC & CEMAST