



Record of decision

THE FOLLOWING DECISIONS WERE TAKEN ON THURSDAY, 9 NOVEMBER 2017 BY THE CABINET

THE CALL IN PERIOD FOR THESE DECISIONS EXPIRES AT 5.00 PM ON MONDAY, 20 NOVEMBER 2017

Members of the Cabinet who were present

Cllrs Dave Stewart (Chairman), Barry Abraham, Paul Brading, John Hobart, Stuart Hutchinson, Clare Mosdell, Michael Murwill, Gary Peace, Ian Ward and Wayne Whittle

Apologies

None

Members also present (non-voting)

Cllrs Debbie Andre, Rodney Downer and Paul Fuller

Confirmed as a true record of decisions taken

Leader of the Council

Agenda item	<u>Minutes of the Last Meeting</u>
Decision reference	42 (17/18)
Decision Taken	That the minutes of the meeting held on <u>12 October 2017</u> be agreed.
Questions / Amendments	None.

Agenda item	<u>Declarations of Interest</u>
Decision reference	43 (17/18)
	Councillor Dave Stewart declared an interest as he had recently been made a member of the County Club.

Agenda item	Public Question Time (<u>Written Question</u>) (<u>Oral Question</u>)
Decision reference	44 (17/18)
Questions	Mr Richard Hards of Whippingham submitted a written question

	<p>around the policy for managing children’s safeguarding. The Cabinet Member for Children’s Services provided a written response (PQ 21/17).</p> <p>Mr Hards asked a supplemental question around whether a local family could meet with relevant senior officers to discuss their circumstances.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Children’s Services would respond via a written response following the meeting.</p> <p>Mr Mark Chiverton of Ryde and the Branch Secretary of UNISON asked an oral question around the arrangements of Children’s Social Care and Education Services on the Isle of Wight and whether there had been any response to the representations sent from UNISON.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Children’s Services advised by stating that a written reply would be sent outlining all the responses and that the representations had been considered when preparing the cabinet paper.</p>
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Agenda item	Annual Safeguarding Report – Children’s Services
Decision reference	45 (17/18)
Summary of Discussion	<p>The Cabinet Member for Children’s Service’s presented a report which provided an update on the safeguarding children activity within Children’s Services during 2016 - 2017.</p> <p>The partnership with Hampshire County Council had enabled Isle of Wight Children’s Services to move out of the ‘inadequate’ judgement from Ofsted in 2012 to one of ‘requires improvement’ to get to ‘good’ in 2014, an improvement which had continued up until 2017.</p> <p>It was noted that with the resources available, the mission to get to ‘good’ and ‘outstanding’, was a firm ambition that was held by all staff.</p>
Issues raised by other members	No other issues were raised.
Decision taken	THAT the Annual Safeguarding Report for Children’s Services be noted.
Reason for the decision and corporate objective it aligns with	To provide evidence of how the Isle of Wight Council had continued to deliver an improved service to safeguard children while also ensuring that all resources available to the Island were used in the most effective way in order to achieve the Isle of Wight Council’s priorities as articulated in the Corporate Plan 2017 – 2020.

Options considered and rejected	There were no other options to consider.
Declarations of Interests	None declared.

Agenda item	<u>To Agree To Consult On School Term Dates</u>
Decision reference	46 (17/18)
Summary of Discussion	<p>The Cabinet Member for Children’s Service’s presented a report which sought approval for a consultation to ask all interested parties for their views in seeking to introduce the options around the patterns of term and holiday dates within the IWC school year to ensure that they best supported learning and outcomes for children as well as best support education and wider communities in how they organised their work and home life calendars.</p> <p>Following the consultation exercise, which would run from 24 November 2017 to 12 January 2018, a final decision would be taken at the meeting of Cabinet on 8 March 2018.</p> <p>Members of the Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations, although requested that all school governors, together with town and parish councils, should be included in the consultation process.</p> <p>Recommendations from the Scrutiny Committee for all items of Cabinet business were circulated to members prior to the meeting (available to view here).</p>
Issues raised by other members	No other issues were raised.
Decision taken	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. THAT the consultation on the revision of the school year using the options as outlined in the report as basis for that consultation be agreed. II. THAT the reporting back of the outcome of the consultation to Cabinet in March 2018 before setting the school year dates for 2019-20, be agreed.
Reason for the decision and corporate objective it aligns with	<p>The proposals for a revised school year promote the following Corporate Plan 2017-2020 priority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A well-educated and skilled community <p>To engage with the Island parents on how they would prefer to see school holidays scheduled.</p>
Options considered and rejected	Not to consult on the options and not to report back to Cabinet in March 2018.

Declarations of Interests	None declared.
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Agenda item	<u>Options For The Future Arrangements Of Children’s Social Care And Education Services On The Isle Of Wight</u>
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Decision reference	47 (17/18)
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Summary of Discussion	<p>The Cabinet Member for Children’s Service’s presented a report which contained options open to the council for the future management arrangements of its Children’s Services, following a Statutory Direction put in place by the Secretary of State to secure the necessary improvements to children’s safeguarding and education services on the Isle of Wight following a judgement of “inadequate” from an Ofsted inspection in 2012.</p> <p>Members were reminded that upon conclusion of the five-year strategic partnership with Hampshire County Council in June 2018, the council now needed to consider how it intended to deliver children’s services into the longer term.</p> <p>It was noted that the partnership had provided benefits to both parties and that officers from the Island had gained valuable experience.</p> <p>Improvements had seen schools on the Island go from a 51% level of having ‘good’ Ofsted rated schools to 81% and that only 2% were now failing. It was therefore anticipated to have no failing schools by September 2018 with an aspiration of there being 100% ‘good’ to ‘outstanding’ schools Islandwide.</p> <p>The Leader also cited the work of creating an ‘All Through School’ for the Bay area as being one good example of collaborative working with Hampshire County Council with officers from both sides praised.</p>
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Issues raised by other members	No other issues were raised.
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Decision taken	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. THAT the extension of the current strategic partnership with Hampshire County Council into the longer term, with break clauses in the agreement to review after each substantive Ofsted inspection / every five years be agreed. II. THAT the delegation to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children’s Services and Cabinet Member for Resources to determine the partnership outcomes; required performance outputs and resource requirements, for integration to the new partnership agreement together with any amendments required to the partnership agreement so that it reflects the
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	current position and not the position at the time of the direction, be agreed.
Reason for the decision and corporate objective it aligns with	<p>To adhere to the following outcome as outlined in the Corporate Plan 2017 – 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “All young people will have the best start in life so that they can fill their potential”. <p>To secure 100% of schools being rated as good or better by 2021, as stated in the councils “Excellence in Education” strategy.</p>
Options considered and rejected	<p>Option 1 - To let the strategic partnership agreement with Hampshire County Council expire in June 2018 and for the Isle of Wight Council to take back the strategic management responsibility for children’s services and to develop alternative business models for aspects of children’s social care and education.</p> <p>Option 2a - To enter into a strategic partnership with another local authority.</p> <p>Option 3 - To commission/create a not for profit Trust for the alternative delivery and governance arrangements for Children’s Social Care and Education outside the operational control of the local authority.</p>
Declarations of Interests	None declared.

Agenda item	<u>To Approve Changes to the Non-Residential Care Charging Policy</u>
Decision reference	48 (17/18)
Summary of Discussion	<p>The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health presented a report which reflected upon the outcome of a consultation that proposed a change to the council’s non-residential care charging policy by including disability related benefits at the higher or enhanced rate as part of a person’s means tested financial assessment.</p> <p>Following some 450 responses to the consultation process, the Cabinet Member advised that such a difficult decision needed to be the subject of further reflection before any decision could be made.</p> <p>The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources also stated that this was an example of having to make difficult funding choices and therefore the need to explore all possible options should be taken.</p>

	Cabinet consequently requested to defer any decision until the Cabinet meeting on 15 February 2018 when it would have considered all savings proposals across the council and was able to evaluate them against the corporate priorities.
Issues raised by other members	No other issues were raised.
Decision taken	THAT upon reflecting on the outcome of the consultation, the deferral of a decision until the Cabinet meeting on 15 February 2018 when Cabinet would have considered all savings proposals across the council and was able to evaluate them against corporate priorities, be agreed.
Reason for the decision and corporate objective it aligns with	<p>To adhere with the following priority, as set out in the Corporate Plan 2017- 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A financially balanced and sustainable council. <p>The proposal was seen to support a key focus of making sure that the council had sufficient resources to be financially sustainable.</p> <p>To abide with the following corporate key activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver the savings plan necessary to achieve an annual balanced budget • Create a three year savings plan ensuring the council's planned expenditure is, ultimately, no greater than its expected income; • Continually review further options for expenditure reductions and income growth as part of the budget management process.
Options considered and rejected	<p>Option 1 – To approve a change to the council's non-residential care charging policy by including benefits at the higher or enhanced rate as part of a person's means tested financial assessment.</p> <p>Option 2 – To maintain the council's current non-residential care charging policy by having the difference between the lower and higher rates effectively ignored for purposes of means testing for non-residential care.</p> <p>Option 3 – To create a transitional hardship fund to provide additional financial support for those people for whom the introduction of new charges, following a change to the council's non-residential care charging policy by including benefits at the higher or enhanced rate as part of a person's means tested financial assessment, is particularly unfavourable.</p>

Declarations of Interests	None declared.
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Agenda item	<u>Motion submitted by Cllr Rodney Downer at Full Council on 20 September 2017 - Rights of Way Network</u>
Decision reference	49 (17/18)
Summary of Discussion	<p>The Cabinet Member for Environment and Heritage reminded members of the following motion submitted by Councillor Rodney Downer at Full Council on 20 September 2017:</p> <p><i>To further support the Rights of Way network, Full Council requests that Cabinet reconsider the budget allocation being made to maintain and support Rights of Way and considers proposing an increase in financial support to enable the network to be at a standard necessary to provide the benefits to the local economy through tourists, and the health benefits to residents.</i></p> <p>Cabinet recognised Rights of Way and its huge importance to Island residents and the significant tourism it brings. Natural England were also looking to develop a walking and cycling strategy with a view to expanding bridleways and as a consequence such investment would be needed to support this.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Transport fully endorsed the need to support Rights of Way and agreed it was vital to the Islands economy.</p>
Issues raised by other members	<p>Councillor Rodney Downer thanked Cabinet for considering his motion and stated that such funding would be seen as an investment for the council.</p> <p>There would also be significant health benefits in increasing the Right of Way network, encouraging people to exercise more through walking and cycling, which in turn could lead to benefits for people in later life and thus reducing the burden on health care.</p>
Decision taken	THAT the motion is considered as part of the (2018 – 2019) budget allocation process by Cabinet in due course.
Declarations of Interests	None declared.

Agenda item	<u>Consideration of the Forward Plan</u>
Decision reference	50 (17/18)
Amendments / Additions / Removals	Prior to reviewing the Forward Plan, some members gave a brief overview of various activities within their remit.

	<p>The Cabinet Member for Procurement, Waste Management, Special Projects and Forward Planning advised that the recent Digital Conference held on 8 November 2017 at the Cowes Yacht Haven had been very successful and that it featured various internationally renowned digital economy experts.</p> <p>It was noted that the local internet provider, Wightnet, had announced securing government funding of some £35m to lay down an 'Ultrafast' gigabit broadband network for the whole of the Island.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Children's Services announced that a four week consultation exercise would begin shortly around the amendment of the School Age range for the Bay C of E Primary School to set up the Bay 'Through School. Following the outcome of the consultation, a Cabinet Member Delegated Decision would be taken by the end of December 2017 to make a final decision on the matter.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health advised that there had been an increase over the national rate in Island residents who were satisfied with their care and support received. The number of delayed (days) transfers of care from hospital attributable to social care in the month also continued to improve.</p> <p>It was also noted that as a consequence of the progress in the Islands transfers of care, the National Team was sending representatives to the Island in order to learn more about the improvement measures.</p> <p>Members then reviewed the Forward Plan and there were no major issues raised.</p>
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Agenda item	<u>Members' Question Time</u>
Decision reference	51 (17/18)
Questions	<p>Councillor Rodney Downer asked about the status of Branstone Farm (an outdoor and educational activities facility for primary school children and ages beyond).</p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Children's Services advised that the farm was operating normally but there may be some budgetary implications announced in February 2018.</p>