



Record of decision

**THE FOLLOWING DECISIONS WERE TAKEN BY THE CABINET ON
THURSDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER 2020**

**THE CALL IN PERIOD FOR THESE DECISIONS EXPIRES AT 5.00 PM ON
MONDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER 2020**

Members of the Cabinet who were present

Cllrs Dave Stewart (Chairman), Barry Abraham, Paul Brading, Steve Hastings, Stuart Hutchinson, Clare Mosdell, Gary Peace, Brian Tyndall, Ian Ward, Wayne Whittle

Members also present (non-voting)

Cllrs Geoff Brodie, Andrew Garratt, Debbie Andre

Confirmed as a true record of decisions taken

..... **Leader of the Council**

Agenda item	<u>Minutes of the Last Meeting</u>
Decision reference	15 (20/21)
Decision Taken	That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2020 be agreed.
Questions / Amendments	None

Agenda item	<u>Declarations of Interest</u>
Decision reference	16 (20/21)

	None declared at this stage.
Agenda item	<u>Public Question Time</u>
Decision reference	17 (20/21)
Summary of Discussion	<p>A question had been submitted by Michael Douse regarding the Cowes Floating Bridge (PQ23/20).</p> <p>The Leader provided a response.</p>

Agenda item	<u>Chairman's Announcements</u>
Decision reference	18 (20/21)
Summary of Discussion	<p>The Chairman welcomed Cllr Brian Tyndall to the Cabinet, bringing experience as a local member and as Chairman of the Audit Committee, to take on responsibility for Finance and Resources, allowing Cllr Hutchinson to take on Strategic finance and the COVID Recovery Plan. Cllr Hobart had stepped down from his Cabinet role, allowing him to concentrate on his local area.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing and the Leader had been working with the MP to respond to the latest government white paper on planning. An update would be brought to the next Cabinet meeting, along with the Housing Strategy.</p>

Agenda item	<u>COVID 19 Isle of Wight Recovery Plan</u>
Decision reference	19 (20/21)
Summary of Discussion	<p>This was the first of a series of reports on COVID 19 issues moving forward. Officers were recognised for their hard work in bringing forward the report which was very comprehensive. The Scrutiny Committee had already considered the report at length and had given their overall support, although concern had been expressed that there should be a representative for Economic Development on the Health & Wellbeing Board.</p> <p>The Leader had spoken with the Chairman of the Economic Development Board, who had agreed to take on a role within the Health and Wellbeing Board.</p>
Decision taken	<p><u>Options 1 and 2 are adopted</u></p> <p>1. Option 1 - In acting in its “place leadership” role to agree to seek partner views on the draft Medium-Term Island Recovery Plan - “A Better Island” (Appendix 1), noting that</p>

	<p>it will be revised and updated as the work progresses.</p> <p>2. Option 2 - Cabinet agrees to the Health and Wellbeing Board taking responsibility for the development and implementation of the Island Recovery Plan with quarterly updates being provided to Cabinet.</p>
Reason for the decision and corporate objective it aligns with	To address the wide-ranging impacts of COVID, the evidenced need for place leadership experienced during the continuing response phase and the need to review the Council's Corporate Plan going forward.
Options considered and rejected	<p>Option 3 - To adopt the recovery plan for the wider Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, once developed and be led by the regional approach to addressing key impacts and actions in recovering from the pandemic.</p> <p>Option 4 - To address recovery issues on an ad hoc basis as requested by national government guidance and reflecting local circumstances in recovering local service provision.</p>

Agenda Item	<u>Quarterly Performance Report Q4 (19/20 and Q1 (20/21)</u>
Decision reference	20 (20/21)
Summary of Discussion	<p>This was a routine report, unusually reporting on two quarters, given the impact of COVID 19. It had been designed to be as easily digestible as possible. Quarter 4 had showed the financial year ended with a slight saving against the budget. Just over £1 million had been added to the council's reserves. Quarter 1 showed that due to the effects of COVID there was a potential budget shortfall of at least £8.4 million which would have to be recovered over the next three Quarters. Work had commenced on looking at what could be done to address the shortfall by way of revised priorities, use of contingency funds and areas of savings. Cllr Tyndall would be bringing future Quarterly reports to Cabinet.</p> <p>Adult Social Care were no longer projecting an overspend as £661,000 had been saved to date.</p> <p>Phase 1 of the pop-up cycling and walking proposals from government had been put on hold as the government had changed its approach.. The council would consult before any further steps were taken in this area.</p> <p>A recent report from COMRES independent body had indicated that the Island's A, B and C roads were the most improved in the country.</p>

	<p>A three-phased strategy had been put together to manage Children's Services during lockdown, which had remained at Phase 1 - 'business as usual' throughout lockdown. Children had now returned to school and measures had been put in place to deal with an increase in numbers of COVID cases should this occur. Investment in the transformation programme was showing a benefit to the service offered.</p> <p>There had been a surge in the number of complaints to the Planning Enforcement Team in relation to people undertaking works to their properties during lockdown. The team were slowly working their way through the complaints.</p> <p>The Council had purchased Venture Quays in East Cowes for £1.3 million. This would enable the council to take forward plans to support the economy, protect jobs and develop housing, and would secure key employment land for future years.</p> <p>Community Safety had been busy dealing with response to the COVID outbreak and the large number of enquiries from businesses. Extra funding and resources were being sought, to keep up with the day to day business.</p> <p>The website redesign project was progressing. A new design had been agreed and was on track for the end of November 2020. A new software system "Modern Gov" had been installed in Democratic Services, which would be an easier online platform for members and the public to use.</p> <p>Bereavement Services had been working extremely hard during the COVID pandemic and had continued to deliver the service.</p> <p>An update was given on the waste contract. The council had been nominated for an award for partnership working. There had been no disruptions to waste collection during the pandemic. The current recycling rate was 56% which was high in national rankings. The Energy from Waste plant should be fully open by Spring 2021. Positive feedback had been received regarding the arrangements at the household recycling centres (HWRCs). The Institute of Public Health Excellence had invited the council to speak to representatives of other authorities regarding the arrangements for HWRCs on the island.</p>
Decision Taken	To approve the Performance and Finance Report – Quarter ended 31 March 2020 and Quarter ended 30 June 2020 and the priority report detail as set out in Appendix A, together with the council's financial position as set out at Appendices B, B1, C and C1.
Reason for the decision and	Ongoing management and monitoring of performance data, the council's strategic risk profile and financial situation is required to support the successful delivery of agreed council priorities. As such,

corporate objective it aligns with	this report provides the Cabinet (and the council's Scrutiny function) with the necessary information to record achievements and challenge areas of under performance and to account for it to the wider community.
Other options considered and rejected	None
Agenda Item	<u>Loan Investment in Perpetuus Tidal Energy Centre (PTEC)</u>
Decision reference	21 (20/21)
Summary of discussion	<p>The Cabinet Member for Business and Regeneration gave the background to the council's involvement in the tidal energy project since 2013. The council had loaned £1 million to PTEC to set up a test bed, create jobs and enable green technology on the island. However, anticipated government subsidy had not been forthcoming and the project had been delayed. Due to the council's current financial situation as a result of the COVID pandemic, it was not a good time to find further funds of £244,000 to loan to PTEC. Several Members indicated that they were in favour of renewables and the creation of jobs, but felt that they could not support a further loan to PETC at the current time. It was believed that essential services were a priority.</p> <p>The Leader reported that following the publication of the paper PTEC has attempted to secure the additional funding required, based on the recommendations set out. It reported that there may be a possibility of it doing so provided also that the council's original loan is extended, its repayment is made alongside the other loan which capitalised the company and council come off the Board of the company in recognition of its reduced shareholding in the company.</p> <p>The Leader then proposed an additional recommendation (below) made on the basis that these changes could be made in the spirit of the council's original intent for PTEC to create jobs and investment and put the Isle of Wight at the forefront of the renewable energy agenda.</p>
Decision taken	<p>Option C - not to make any further investment in PTEC at this time, and</p> <p>Option E - authorise PTEC to raise the required funds by selling up to two thirds of the council's shareholding in the company, and</p> <p>Additional Recommendation made at the meeting - The council's original loan term is extended for five years, is repayable alongside the other loan which capitalised the company</p>

	and the council release its position on the PTEC Board, subject to the additional funding being secured.
Reason for the decision and corporate objective it aligns with	<p>It was believed that the recommendations offered a compromise with the project still able to continue.</p> <p>A decision to do nothing is likely to lead to the demise of the PTEC project. It would lose the benefits of the timebound options for the marine lease and licenses that it currently controls, and which are the most valuable assets in its ownership. Without significant progress on the project there is a risk that these consents will lapse and the project will collapse with the loss of the council's existing £1 million investment, a challenge to meet its net zero carbon aspirations by 2030 and the loss of an opportunity to recover from COVID19.</p> <p>If PTEC were able to raise the necessary funds from the sale of some or all of the council's shares then the project could proceed and the opportunity for delivering the hoped-for economic benefits increased. Whilst the council would still be entitled to the repayment of its original loan, it would be foregoing its ability to 'direct' the work of the company (including the incorporation of some of the conditions set out in Appendix 1) and also the benefit of any future dividends from its shares. However, there is no likelihood of any dividend should the project fail at this juncture.</p>
Other options considered and rejected	<p>Option A – to make a further loan investment of £244,000 in PTEC subject to the conditions set out in appendix 1.</p> <p>Option B – to make a further loan investment of £244,000 subject to the conditions set out in appendix 1, only once confirmation from PTEC that the full funding to achieve financial close is secured.</p> <p>Option D – suggest PTEC seek other equity investing partners.</p>
Agenda Item	<u>Cabinet Member Announcements</u>
Decision reference	22 (20/21)
	<p>The Cabinet Member for Childrens' Services, Education and Skills reported that school buses had been featured widely in the media over recent weeks. The previous contract had ended. Southern Vectis were the successful bidders for the new contract. All issues raised had been addressed and solutions found. The new contract was fit for purpose.</p> <p>Children had returned to school and schools were required to complete a return showing attendance numbers. The island was</p>

	<p>above national attendance. Head teachers and staff hard worked hard to make school safe for returning to school.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning reported that he had met with the island's MP to discuss the island Plan and it was hoped that something would be published early in 2021.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Digital Transformation reported that the Le Blanc cycling event had been postponed to next Spring due to the change in government guidelines relating to COVID 19.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Environment, Heritage and Waste Management reported that there was a backlog of black sack waste from many residents following the lockdown and was pleased to announce that the recycling centres would start to take black bags from 15 September.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources thanked the Chairman for giving him his position in the Cabinet and reported that he had already met with several managers to get a full understanding of his portfolio.</p> <p>The Leader reported that there were a range of events being brought to the island were in the pipeline but that currently the safety of residents and visitors was the number one priority.</p>
Agenda Item	Consideration of the Forward Plan
Decision Reference	23 (20/21)
	<p>Items on the Forward Plan which were due to be considered at the next Cabinet meeting were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Road/Whitehouse Road Junction • Newport Harbour Master Plan • Approval of Public Spaces Protection Orders • Approval of Housing Strategy
Agenda Item	Members' Question Time
Decision Reference	24 (20/21)
	<p>A question had been received from Cllr Garratt regarding the works at St Mary's Roundabout (MQ 11/20). The Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Transport provided a response, and also agreed to meet with Cllr Garratt after the meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Mosdell mentioned that she was intending to bring a motion to Full Council in October regarding the enforcement of speed, width</p>

	and weight restrictions on the island. The Leader reinforced the council's corporate priority of keeping people safe.
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