

REPORT FROM THE LEADER AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES, ORGANISATIONAL CHANGE AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES TO THE MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY, 19 OCTOBER 2016

Resources and Organisational Change

As set out in my last report the main issues I have been engaged with are ones for Full Council to deal with, but on this occasion those reports are now able to be considered by Full Council and by the time this report is formally put before the meeting they will have been taken through Full Council. It therefore seems inappropriate to set out further comment here that will already have been the subject of presentation and debate.

The Constitutional Working Party has had its first meeting to look at the council's constitution with a view to streamlining and updating the document to aid the working of the council. The meeting successfully reviewed a large quantity of material and a programme of meetings has been established to continue and conclude this process before the end of the council year.

Children's Services

On 29 September the Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children's Board met. It was the last meeting chaired by Maggie Blythe who is moving on to a role with the police. Maggie was warmly thanked by the board for the work she has done over the last few years which have been an important part of improving Children's Services on the Isle of Wight.

Due to the situation at the Ryde ice rink the annual STAR awards for Children in Care, which were due to take place last week, have had to be postponed. Use of the venue had been very kindly arranged by Councillor Gauntlet and it is most unfortunate that the event could not take place as planned. The awards will take place at a later date once a new venue and date have been identified.

Other issues

A '20's Plenty' conference was held at the Riverside Centre on 5 October, which a number of councillors attended and at which I spoke. As a result of this, Councillor Jones-Evans has put forward a motion at this Full Council meeting which I hope will gain members' support to enable work to be undertaken to introduce 20mph limits on the Island where needed and possible. Unfortunately a planned meeting with the organiser of the national campaign on Tuesday had to be postponed due to the timing of a meeting in London with the Minister for Local Government, Marcus Jones MP, being changed late in the day. I hope to be able to provide an oral report on the outcome of the meeting with the Minister during the Full Council meeting.

Be a Councillor event

On 11 October the Local Government Association staged a 'Be a Councillor' event in the council chamber. All credit must go to Councillor Jones-Evans for providing the impetus to make the event take place. I was able to attend most of both sessions

and it was good to see upwards of 30 potential new councillors in attendance across the two sessions that were held.

Isle of Wight Day

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the High Sheriff, Robin Courage, for having the idea of and being central to the organisation of Isle of Wight Day last month. I would also like to thank those that organised events and got involved in the day. It was an excellent celebration of the Island and its people which will, I hope, find a permanent place in the calendar, indeed the date for next year has been fixed as 23 September 2017.

Councillor Jonathan Bacon

Leader and Executive Member for Resources, Organisational Change and Children's Services