

**FULL COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 19 OCTOBER 2016**

**Written question from Mr A Cuthbertson to Councillor Jonathan Bacon, Leader and Executive Member for Resources, Organisational Change and Children's Services**

Sir we already have combined co-operation with Hampshire CC for Education, Police, Fire Service and Social Services - why do we need to enter into another money driven conglomerate with Portsmouth City Council and Southampton City Council?

And secondly what percentage would IOWC expect to receive after Portsmouth CC and Southampton CC acquire their share.

(This latter part of my question was asked and asked again at the SMCA meeting held at the Medina venue on Wed 31<sup>st</sup> August, and by intention or choice was not respond to?)

## ***Response***

The Isle of Wight Council only has a partnership arrangement with Hampshire County Council for the delivery of its Children's Services; it does not have a similar arrangement for adult social care. Hampshire Fire Authority is a separate body to Hampshire County Council as is the Police Authority; the Isle of Wight Council has no responsibility for policing.

The Isle of Wight Council has had to make overall savings of some £60m over the 5 years to 2015/16 and estimates it needs to make further savings of £33m over the next five years. The funding available to deliver services in 2016/17 is £147 million. The council and therefore the Island faces significant financial challenges which are increasingly difficult to address through further cuts to services.

Taking the lead of the former Secretary of State for Local Government and Communities, Rt Hon Greg Clark, who set out that it was his, "firm conviction that the devolution deal offers the best opportunity to improve the economy of the Isle of Wight and consequently, provide a more sustainable footing for local services", the council has pursued a devolution agreement with government for a Solent deal. This in the absence of any other offer of support from government either in financial assistance or through any other devolution deal.

### ***Supplementary:***

The distribution of any investment funds in a devolution deal will be a matter for the constituent members of the combined authority, including the directly elected mayor, and would need to be consistent with the government's 'green book' guidelines governing the spending of capital funds.