



Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
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Agenda

Name of meeting	FULL COUNCIL
Date	WEDNESDAY, 15 NOVEMBER 2017
Time	6.00 PM
Venue	COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Members of the Committee	All Members of the Council

Senior Democratic Services Officer: Julie Martin, telephone 821000, email julie.martin@iow.gov.uk

PRAYERS led by Revd Veronica Brown

1. **Minutes**

To approve as a correct record and to sign the Minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 20 September 2017 and 18 October 2017 ([Paper A](#) and [A1](#)).

2. **[Declarations of Interest](#)**

To invite Members to declare any interest they might have in the matters on the agenda.

3. **To deal with any questions from members of the public - a maximum of up to 15 minutes for written questions, with up to a further 15 minutes for oral questions.**

Questions may be asked without notice but to guarantee a full reply at the meeting, the question must be delivered in writing or by electronic mail to Democratic Services no later than 6.00 pm on Monday, 13 November 2017. The [Procedure for asking oral questions](#) is set out below.



Details of this and other Council committee meetings can be viewed on the Isle of Wight Council's website at <http://www.iwight.com/Meetings/current/>. This information may be available in alternative formats on request. Please contact Julie Martin, telephone 821000 for details. Please note the meeting will be audio recorded and the recording will be placed on the website (except any part of the meeting from which the press and public are excluded).

4. **Chairman's official announcements**

To receive the Chairman's official announcements ([Paper B](#))

5. **Pensions governance: changes to terms of reference for pension fund committee and pension boards**

To consider changes to Articles 12 and 13 of the council's constitution ([Paper C](#))

6. **Motion previously submitted and now considered by Cabinet**

The following motion stood adjourned without discussion at the meeting of Full Council on Wednesday, 20 September 2017, Cabinet would consider it at its meeting on 9 November 2017 and consider whether it desired to report thereon back to the Full Council.

By Councillor Rodney Downer

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.

7. **Motions submitted under Procedure Rule 9 of the Council's Constitution**

(i) By Councillor Julia Baker-Smith

This Council acknowledges that between May 2017 and October 2017 it has been necessary to call two extraordinary meetings of the full council and that as such the reduction in regular full council meetings has resulted in unnecessary administration and inconvenience to the public, officers and members.

To ensure good planning and attendance at meetings this council resolves to reinstate the cycle of 10 full council meetings a year.

(ii) By Councillor Geoff Brodie

Although a minority of Members opposed it, this Council last May voted to remove Cabinet accountability to Full Council in a public forum; a cornerstone of executive governance in a democracy. Research through the LGA has indicated that there is no other known example of this in other local authorities.

Council notes that even the British Prime Minister and their Cabinet are accountable to Parliament through PMQs and regular Ministerial Questions, with the media and public in attendance.

Council does not consider the provision of private Member briefings, written questions to Cabinet members behind the scenes, and questions to Cabinet members at Cabinet and Scrutiny - both relatively poorly attended by the public - to be an adequate alternative.

Therefore, Council agrees in the interests of open democracy to re-introduce an agenda item for Member questions to Cabinet members at Full Council from January 2018.

(iii) By Councillor Geoff Brodie

This Council notes;

1. That currently 1.5 million 16 and 17 year olds are denied the vote in public elections in the UK.
2. That the campaign to lower the voting age is supported by thousands of young people across the UK and that the 'Votes at 16 Coalition' consists of a wide range of youth and democracy organisations.

This Council believes;

1. 16 and 17 year olds are knowledgeable and passionate about the world in which they live and are as capable of engaging in the democratic system as any other citizen;
2. Lowering the voting age to 16, combined with strong citizenship education, would empower young people to better engage in society and influence decisions that will define their future;
3. People who can consent to medical treatment, work full-time, pay taxes, get married or enter a civil partnership and join the armed forces should also have the right to vote.

This Council resolves;

1. To support the Votes at 16 Coalition;
2. To write to the Island's MP to inform him of this decision and ask him to support the campaign;

(iv) By Councillor John Medland

The Isle of Wight has a relatively high quality of night sky with low levels of light pollution which makes it potentially eligible for Dark Sky Status, an international accreditation awarded by the International Dark Sky Association. Dark Sky status has currently been granted to only 64 areas around the world.

The Isle of Wight Dark Skies Initiative is working to obtain this accreditation for the Isle of Wight. The accreditation does not rely on removing lighting but on encouraging better use of lighting. Accreditation would have many benefits in terms of preserving the environment with benefits for wildlife. There will be an economic gain from the recognition of the Island as a world class destination for amateur astronomers. This will boost tourism, particularly 'out of season' when the night sky is best for such activity.

To obtain Dark Sky Status an area requires a form of local lighting code. This can take the form of Supplementary Planning Guidance as used in other areas in the UK which have already obtained accreditation. Without such Guidance the quality of the Island's night sky is at risk and the possibility of obtaining the accreditation may be lost.

Accordingly this Council recommends to Cabinet that such a Guidance document is brought into effect as soon as possible to help the Island to secure Dark Sky status and the benefits set out above.

(v) By Councillor Debbie André

“It is likely that if the current approach of central government to local government finance continues, this Council will soon be in a position where it does not have the financial resources to continue to provide essential statutory services and remain financially viable. This poses a significant risk to the future of local government on the Isle of Wight, at least in its current form, in the very near future.

Full Council therefore requests Cabinet to bring forward a paper setting out and assessing all the potential options in terms of the maintenance of local government on the Isle of Wight, any risks to its continuance and how these options and risks might impact upon essential services and local control of those services. This will enable this Council and the general public to have a full understanding of the possibilities going forward and enable informed discussion and decisions in respect of all financial planning strategies relating directly to the Isle of Wight Council and other relevant issues that come forward in the next few years.”

(vi) By Councillor Michael Lilley

Council notes that Members are corporate parents and have a statutory responsibility for the safety and protection of children.

Council believes that the safety of children and young people is the core of corporate parenting and all services regarding children and young people. An essential part of safeguarding is that IW Council staff working or in contact with children, young people, families and vulnerable adults are eligible for and undertake enhanced clearance/checks through DBS. The Council’s current policy requires those councillors who make decisions in relation to children and vulnerable adults (the Cabinet) and the adoption/fostering panel representative to undertake enhanced checks. Island residents need to know their elected representatives have gone through a process of suitable check and meet safeguarding standards due to their corporate parenting role.

Council resolves that all Members must undertake a basic DBS check and that all Members in decision making roles on Committees/Panels which involve children and young people must undertake enhanced checks.

(vii) By Councillor Ian Stephens

"Recent issues in Island Education have once again exposed concerns with sixth form provision on the Isle of Wight.

As highlighted during the Consultation process that took place in 2015, a key element to ensuring good sixth form provision is having sufficient numbers to justify a good resources base, particularly in terms of staffing. This enables students to be able to choose from a full range of subjects to

study that will enable them to follow their chosen career paths and to have the greatest chance of gaining good results.

Advances in other areas of education have not been reflected in the results obtained by sixth form providers and it is plain steps need to be taken to improve the quality of sixth form provision on the Isle of Wight. A key step is to ensure that sixth form providers reduce in number so that those that do exist can be of a sufficient size to provide students with the resources and education they need.

Council therefore requests Cabinet to take, support and promote all practical and possible steps to achieve this end."

HELEN MILES
Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
7 November 2017