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Name of meeting **FULL COUNCIL**

Date WEDNESDAY, 17 JANUARY 2018

Time **6.00 PM**

Venue COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT

Members of the All Members of the Council Committee

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 meeting of the Council held on 15 November 2017 (<u>Paper A</u>)

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, 15 January 2018. The <u>Procedure for asking oral questions</u> is set out below.



Details of this and other Council committee meetings can be viewed on the Isle of Wight Council's website at <u>http://www.iwight.com/Meetings/current/</u>. 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. Independent Remuneration Panel report into members' allowances 2017/18

To consider the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel (Paper C)

6. Local Council Tax Support Full Scheme Review 2018/19

To consider the report of the Director of Finance and S151 Officer (Paper D)

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

(i) <u>By Councillor Geoff Brodie</u>

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 reintroduce an agenda item for Member questions to Cabinet members at Full Council from February 2018.

(ii) <u>By Councillor Geoff Brodie</u>

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

(iii) By Councillor Julia Baker-Smith

Since it was necessary for the bus shelter to move from Council land at Seaclose earlier this year the charity have been unable to secure land for a new base. The bus shelter provides innovative temporary accommodation and additional services for the Island's homeless who are unable to access other services due to eligibility or capacity.

The Isle of Wight Council understands and acknowledges that homelessness cannot be tackled by a "one size fits all" approach and as such pledges to :

- 1. Work with the full range of services and voluntary organisations supporting the Island's homeless.
- 2. Assist the Bus shelter to find a permanent base.
- 3. Provide leadership and coordinate services to ensure a joined up approach to helping the Island's homeless.

(iv) By Councillor Chris Quirk

That this council confirms their position to support the goal of a sustainable and modern rail link being provided and maintained between Ryde and Shanklin with improved rolling stock and supporting infrastructure that is fit for purpose and

- 1. Reaffirms the view it reached in September 2015 and March 2016 that the Island Line rail service should remain as a fully integral part of the South Western rail franchise for the entire duration of its post-2017 period.
- 2. Welcomes the recent consultation exercise by the new franchisee (South Western Railway / First MTR) setting out proposals to deliver a better railway for the Isle of Wight, which also identified the Council as the main Key Stakeholder in taking this forward.
- 3. Agrees Council will play a pro-active role over the coming months in working with the other Key Stakeholders through the Steering Group to support the preparation of a suitable Island Line Future Operation Priced Option to be submitted by SWR to the Secretary of State for Transport by 31st May 2018, and seeks support of Bob Seely MP in urging the DfT to accept these plans.

- 4. Further agrees that the Council's input in developing the Priced Option should give reasonable weight to the consultation submission made following the public meeting (jointly hosted by KILF, IWBRUG and IWSR) held on 14th December 2017, which was in broad support of SWR's preferred approach (a train operating on existing infrastructure).
- 5. In particular, supports the use of rolling stock on Island Line which could share a common infrastructure with that of IWSR, allowing for possible future interconnectivity and interoperability between both routes, with a view to enabling longer-term:
 - a. The extension of IWSR into Ryde St John's, with shared usage of this station for public passenger and heritage steam trains; and
 - b. The possible use of the Ryde St John's to Wootton route, along with an extension from the latter station into Newport Harbour, to allow for the operation of both public passenger and heritage steam trains between the Island's main two towns.
- 6. In line with the above, agrees that the possibility of a terminus rail station in Newport Harbour be included in options for the regeneration of this location.
- 7. In light of the Government's recent announcement in respect of the possible re-opening of previously closed branch lines, urges Bob Seely MP to make further representations to the Secretary of State for Transport to:
 - a. Make clear the Council's in-principle support for possible rail extensions to Newport and Ventnor;
 - b. Seek clarification that the process for evaluating new rail projects would allow these possible extensions to be considered; and
 - c. Help identify (or provide) funding for a feasibility study to investigate how these possible extensions could be delivered

(v) <u>By Councillor Michael Lilley</u>

The IW has a serious issue of plastic pollution on our beaches (especially plastic bottles) and within the seas surrounding the Island. A national newspaper highlighted the high level of plastic pollution on Compton Beach. However, other coastline areas are effectively tackling this issue. Penzance has recently become the first coastline area which has plastic free status. This motion is brought to recognise the problem of plastic marine pollution on the Isle of Wight and make the commitment to effectively develop strategies to tackle this issue and work towards achieving Plastic free coastline status.

IW Council resolves to in having a commitment to a reduction of plastic marine pollution and working towards an Isle of Wight plastic free coastline. The Isle of Wight secondly resolves to request the Cabinet member for Waste to meet with IW leading supermarkets and retailers to discuss the viability of developing an Island Deposit (plastic bottles) Return Scheme as part of the reduction of plastic bottle pollution.

(vi) <u>By Councillor Michael Lilley</u>

Portsmouth University in its report on Isle of Wight finances has stated that the IOW Council has a £6.5 million disadvantage per year compared to mainland Counties/unitary authorities. The IW Council has to provide the Island population with services from this yearly disadvantage. The Council also has to work within many English regulations designed for the mainland which does not fit the reality of being an Island surrounded by sea such a planning regulations. IW Council needs legislation which provides recognition as an Island and ability to have exemptions to any national regulations that clearly put the Isle of Wight Council and population at a disadvantage. This motion is designed to start a dialogue to get the legislative change that will give the Island equality with other counties and local authorities and develop a more sustainable future.

IW Council resolves to request the Leader in partnership with all Group Leaders to establish dialogue with IW MP and UK Government about the development of an Isle of Wight Equality (level playing field) and Island Status Act which clearly clarifies within UK law that Isle of Wight is an Island and as an Island has clear differences in issues compared to other Counties within England

> HELEN MILES Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer 9 January 2018