



Minutes

Name of meeting	FULL COUNCIL
Date and Time	WEDNESDAY 18 JANUARY 2023 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM
Venue	COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs C Critchison (Chairman), M Lilley (Vice-Chairman), D Andre, J Bacon, M Beston, P Brading, G Brodie, V Churchman, I Dore, R Downer, W Drew, S Ellis, P Fuller, A Garratt, S Hendry, C Jarman, P Jordan, J Lever, K Love, K Lucioni, J Medland, J Nicholson, M Oliver, T Outlaw, G Peace, L Peacey-Wilcox, D Pitcher, M Price, R Quigley, C Quirk, R Redrup, J Robertson, P Spink, I Stephens, N Stuart and I Ward
Apologies	Cllrs D Adams, J Jones-Evans and C Mosdell

24. **Minutes**

RESOLVED:

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2022 be approved.

25. **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor P Fuller declared an interest in minute number 29(a) as the IWALC representative nominated for Planning Committee was known to him.

26. **Public Question Time**

Mr P Coueslant had submitted a written question (PQ-03-23)

Ms E Brothers asked what action was being taken with the Council and Partner agencies to tackle current and long term flooding, resulting in increasing levels of excess surface water and coastal erosion? The Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment, Heritage, Human Resources and Legal and Democratic Services advised that there were a number of projects moving forward with agencies such as Southern Water and the Environment Agency across the Island. He advised that staff had recently responded to a number of cliff falls to keep residents safe.

Ms E Brothers asked a supplementary question regarding the robustness of the flood strategy and if the Town, Parish and Community Councils would be involved and what support would be available. The Cabinet Member informed her that this was an evolving picture and was seeking to work with local communities on this issue.

Mr S Parks asked if the administration believed they were getting the budget allocation from central government that a Conservative run council would be provided with? The Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance, Transformational Change and Corporate Resources advised that there was no indication money was being withheld from central government on that basis.

27. **Chairman's Official Announcements**

The Chairman advised that she had attended a number of events leading up to Christmas, including a food security and waste conference and supporting warm spaces in Ventnor.

She had been invited to the installation of a new archdeacon which she had accepted and highlighted that a visit by a local Scout group for a civic visit had been arranged.

28. **Leaders Update Report**

The Leader introduced the report and welcomed Cllr Nick Stuart to the Chamber and gave her condolences to the family on the recent passing of the former Councillor, Arthur Taylor.

A question was asked regarding the housing waiting list and how this would be turned into action in 2023. The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Digital Transformational, Housing, Homelessness and Poverty advised that it was important to ensure procedures were correct, and work was ongoing and he was trying to get the best outcome for island residents.

The Leader was asked a question regarding waste and recycling, and she stated that she was passionate about recycling and provided figures of what had been achieved during the Christmas and New Year break. She thanked all staff involved in waste collection.

29. **Reports of the Monitoring Officer**

29a **Review of Political Proportionality, alternative arrangements, and Appointments**

The Monitoring Officer advised that following the result of the by election held in November 2022 and the formation of the Liberal Democrat Group there was a requirement to review the proportionality. It was noted that if alternative arrangements were agreed by all Councillors present without an dissenting vote then the strict political balance requirements could be dispensed.

A proposal to agree alternative arrangements was put forward which was duly seconded A vote was taken, and the result of which was:

RESOLVED:

THAT alternative arrangements be agreed.

A proposal to approve revised appendix 1 (attached to and forming part of these minutes) setting out the appointments was made which was duly seconded, a vote was taken, and the result of which was:

RESOLVED:

THAT the revised appendix 1 be approved.

30. **Report of the Cabinet Member for Planning and Enforcement**

30a **Update on Draft Island Planning Strategy**

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Enforcement put a motion without notice for the following:

That under procedure rule Part 4B Section 20, the operation of Part 4B Section 8 be suspended to permit Full Council to reconsider the timescale granted in its decision of 16 November 2022 for the Cabinet to report back to Full Council. The proposal was duly seconded, a vote was taken, which met the requirements of at least one half of those in attendance agreeing, and the result of which was:

RESOLVED:

THAT the suspension of Part 4B Rule 8 be approved.

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Enforcement summarised the report, highlighting that government consultation may impact planning policies nationally which would then impact the draft Island Planning Strategy, therefore he requested a delay in the reconsideration of the Draft Island Planning Strategy for the government consultation responses to be fully reviewed and considered.

The recommendation was proposed and duly seconded.

A vote was taken, the result of which was:

RESOLVED:

THAT further to Part 1 of the Full Council's resolution on 16 November 2022 on the draft Island Planning Strategy and in recognition of the potentially significant changes which have occurred since that resolution was passed (in the form of the Governments new NPPF prospectus consultation launched on 22 December 2022 and running until 2 March 2023) the time for

reconsideration of the Draft Island Planning Strategy to be extended to no later than the end of June 2023 within which time period the Cabinet Leader may:

- a) submit a revision of the Draft Island Planning Strategy as amended by the Cabinet (the revised “Draft Island Planning Strategy”), with the Cabinet’s reasons for any amendments made to the Draft Island Planning Strategy, to the Full Council for the Full Council’s consideration; or
- b) inform the Full Council of any disagreement that the Cabinet has with any of the Full Council’s objections and the Cabinet’s reasons for any such disagreement; or

inform the Full Council of an alternative route for the Draft Island Planning Strategy that aligns with the revised National Planning Policy Framework due for publication in Spring 2023 and any other changes to legislation and national planning policy and guidance that may reasonably be expected to come into force.

31. Report of the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment, Heritage, Human Resources and Legal and Democratic Services

31a Pay Policy

The Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment, Heritage, Human Resources and Legal and Democratic Services introduced the report and proposed a motion to approve the recommendation, which was duly seconded.

A vote was taken the result of which was:

RESOLVED:

THAT the updated Pay Policy as drafted for the period 1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024 be approved.

32. Report of the Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance, Transformational Change and Corporate Resources

32a Local Council Tax Support Scheme

The Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance, Transformational Change and Corporate Resources summarised the report and advised that this was an annual review and highlighted that there continued to be a hardship scheme available to those who needed it.

A motion was put forward to accept the recommendations as proposed in the report and was duly seconded.

An amendment to option one of those recommendations was proposed and duly seconded as follows:

Record their preference to increase the maximum level of support for working age cases to 70 per cent (from the current maximum level of 65 per cent) and therefore considered alongside (and part of) the Council's overall Budget for 2023/24

A vote was taken, the result of which was:

RESOLVED:

THAT the amendment be agreed

A vote was then taken on the recommendation subject to the amendment proposed and carried above. A vote was taken, the result of which was:

RESOLVED:

THAT Full Council record their preference to increase the maximum level of support for working age cases to 70 per cent (from the current maximum level of 65 per cent) and therefore considered alongside (and part of) the Council's overall Budget for 2023/24

THAT a local welfare payment disregard to mirror housing benefit regulations be added.

THAT any increase in welfare benefit payments due to crisis or emergency provision be disregarded.

33. **Member Questions to the Leader and to any other Cabinet Member**

Cllr N Stuart submitted a written question, the Deputy Leader, Cabinet Member for Digital Transformation, Housing, Homelessness and Poverty provided a written response. (MQ 01/23).

Cllr Stuart asked a supplementary question requesting consideration be made to setting up a housing lead within the Council to work with colleagues and pick up on poor delivery. The Deputy Leader, Cabinet Member for Digital Transformation, Housing, Homelessness and Poverty advised that a housing manager had been appointed.

Cllr R Quigley asked for confirmation that the amendment in last years budget to increase spending on affordable housing but reduce the capital in the housing company stopped housing being built due to the new government regulations on no in year losses and the original amount would of protected the company from making in year losses is now insufficient to start building houses. The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Digital Transformation, Housing, Homelessness and Poverty advised that when money was taken away there had been an impact, he further stated that it was not possible to seek five per cent profitability.

Cllr D Pitcher asked if the Local Planning Authority would be updating the minerals policy. The Cabinet Member for Planning and Enforcement advised that the

aggregates assessment had been circulated and it would be updated following the decision on the Draft Island Planning Strategy.

Cllr Pitcher asked if it could be completed prior to the Draft Island Planning Strategy, the Cabinet Member advised he would raise with officers and provide a response.

Cllr P Spink asked for an update on the KMP development. The Leader advised that she would provide a written response.

CHAIRMAN

Full Council – 18 January 2023

Written question from Mr P Coueslant to the Leader

Further to the Leader's answer at Cabinet on 11 November 2021 to written question PQ 43/21, please could she explain the ongoing delay to the Council's intended sale of its Pier Street site in Sandown and when or whether she now expects a contract of sale to be agreed?

Response

The design works to produce an accurate costing of the proposed scheme have taken longer than anticipated and are expected to be completed this month. These costs will then inform the conclusion of sale negotiations with the proposed purchaser.

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Full Council – 18 January 2023

Written question from Cllr Nick Stuart to the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Digital Transformation, Housing, Homelessness and Poverty

Will the Council provide details of the number and type of properties for rent delivered by the Council in 2022 directly, and in association with outside organisations, and the current plans for 2023.

Noting the Council proposed prefabs as an immediate solution to the housing crisis how many of those have been built?

Response

It should be noted that for a council to be in a position to deliver new homes it takes substantial planning and pre-development work which takes time to put in place. This has been the emerging focus for delivering housing since the Alliance came into administration.

Taking this into consideration, the number and type of properties for rent delivered by the Council in 2022 directly is as follows;

- The Council purchased 4 x 1 bed flats in 2022 and 1 x 1 bed flat in 2023 nearing completion. The 5 flats will remain in Council ownership for single homeless individuals or couples to rent. Grant from DLUHC via the Rough Sleepers Accommodation Grant and our Section 106 monies for “affordable homes” via the planning system was the funding source.

And in association with outside organisations (including plans for 2023);

- The Council has grant funded Ryde Aspire grant funded the development of 5 x 1 bed flats in Ryde High Street above an existing building and completed the legal transactions through the Community-Led Housing Grant. These flats are currently in development and will complete next financial year 2023-2024.

The Council has also been working with Vectis Housing Association for several years to deliver a mixed-use site at Branstone Farm by providing the land, securing grants, and supporting the planning process and developing the combined infrastructure to the site.

The housing provided is 42 new homes of which 17 are 2-bed, 23 are 3-bed and 2 are 4-bed for both affordable rent and shared ownership/part rent. 16 new homes have been completed to date with the remaining 26 to be completed in the next financial year 2023-24.

Prefabs

Plans for direct delivery of modular (prefab) homes has been put on hold due to the financial position of the council as they require significant cash backed subsidy which is no longer available.

A loan facility of £40m was agreed in early 2022 to provide new homes and this would require the identification of sites and projects that are viable and do not worsen the Council's financial position. To date no specific sites have been confirmed.

There are a number of grant funded projects which will deliver more "affordable" housing in future years such as Levelling Up Fund, Brownfield Land Release Fund, and One Public Estate. We are also working closely with Island Housing Associations in order to support delivery of new homes.