



Minutes

Name of meeting	FULL COUNCIL
Date and Time	WEDNESDAY 15 MARCH 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, P Brading, G Brodie, V Churchman, R Downer, W Drew, S Ellis, P Fuller, A Garratt, S Hendry, C Jarman, J Jones-Evans, P Jordan, J Lever, K Lucioni, J Medland, J Nicholson, M Oliver, T Outlaw, G Peace, L Peacey-Wilcox, M Price, R Quigley, C Quirk, R Redrup, J Robertson, P Spink, I Stephens, N Stuart and I Ward
Apologies	CLLrs D Adams, J Bacon, M Beston, I Dore, K Love, C Mosdell and D Pitcher

42. **Minutes**

RESOLVED:

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 22 February 2023 be approved subject to the word Social to be changed to Stroke in the final paragraph of Minute 41.

43. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations received at this stage.

44. **Public Question Time**

Mr B Hardy had submitted a written public question on behalf of the Youth Council (PQ-13-23).

45. **Chairman's Official Announcements**

The Chairman advised that she had attended various events over the last few week's which included a ceremony for the new ArchDeacon in Ryde and a flag raising event to mark International Woman's Day at County Hall. She had also attended a citizen ceremony held at Seaclose offices and had been invited to the Isle of Wight athletics club AGM and prize giving as the patron.

46. **Leaders Update Report**

47. **Report of the Leader**

The Leader introduced her report and advised that since her report was published The Living Well and Early Help services had won Gold at the 2023 Local Government Chronical Awards.

A question was asked regarding future delivery of social housing on the Island by the administration, the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Digital Transformation, Housing, Homelessness and Poverty advised that conversations were being held with rental providers, he advised that a full written response would be provided.

Thanks were given to Steve Crocker and Brian Pope who were retiring soon, for the work they had undertaken for the Authority, Thanks were also given to Paul Thistlewood the Council's Statutory Scrutiny Officer who was also retiring at the end of the month.

It was noted that International Women's Day had been acknowledged by the authority and the Leader was asked how to encourage women into the roles, the Leader advised that she was pleased to see two young ladies from the Youth Council in the public gallery and hoped to inspire young people into democracy.

The Leader was asked if it would be practical to ringfence income generated by the council to fund anti-poverty initiatives. The Leader asked if Cllr Garratt could email the Section 151 Officer.

48. **Report on the use of Special Urgency Provisions**

The Leader introduced the report highlighting a decision that was made under the Special Urgency Provision.

RESOLVED

That this report be noted.

49. **Report of the Monitoring Officer**

49a **Approval of the Members Allowance Scheme 2023-2024**

The Monitoring Officer advised Full Council that the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) had been consulted on the recommendations and these were in line with what the IRP had agreed.

It was noted that the scheme agreed the previous year had included an indexation provision which enabled changes in line with the National staff pay awards to be

made. Negotiations for the 2023/24 pay award were ongoing and following any decision the IRP would be consulted.

Concern was raised regarding the current budget position and the level of increase in the previous year.

It was noted that the Monitoring Officer had granted on 12 January 2022 all councillors a four-year dispensation under Section 33 (2) of the Localism Act 2011 to take part and vote in respect of the Members' Allowance Scheme and associated matters.

The recommendations were duly seconded and a vote was taken, the result of which was:

RESOLVED:

1. THAT the Isle of Wight Council Members' Allowance Scheme ('the Scheme') be approved to take effect on and from 1 April 2023, with the basic allowance for 2023/2024 being the existing amount for 2022/2023 of £8,832 plus an annual indexation amount for 2023/2024 (if any agreed nationally) under the terms of the Scheme.

THAT, before implementation of any adjustment to the 2023/2024 basic allowance amount and any adjustments for subsequent years up to and including 2025/2026, the Independent Remuneration Panel be consulted.

50. Reports of the Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance, Transformational Change and Corporate Resources

50a Local Housing Benefit Scheme Review

The Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance, Transformational Change and Corporate Resources presented the report seeking to use the authority's discretion for War Disablement and War Widow's pensions.

RESOLVED

1. THAT Full Council approves the continuation of the Isle of Wight Council's discretionary scheme to disregard War Disablement and War Widow's Pensions in full from the calculation of income for Housing Benefit purposes (Option A);

THAT Full Council delegates future minor changes or reviews to this scheme to the Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance, Transformational Change and Corporate Resources in consultation with the Benefits Manager (Option C).

50b Council Tax Premiums on Second Homes and Empty Properties

The Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance, Transformational Change and Corporate Resources introduced the item. He advised that the Levelling Up Bill was currently going through Parliament, noted that all conditions requested 12 months' notice prior to implementation, and stated that the report sets out the Council's intention to implement.

Concern was raised that the item was potentially misleading, and the rationale for the figure being set at this stage was asked for. The following amendment was proposed and duly seconded. A vote was taken the result of which was:

RESOLVED

That Full Council declares its intention to implement and approve the additional council tax premiums, to be applied from 01 April 2024, or as soon thereafter as possible, subject to the legislation being in place with a figure to be determined for such premiums.

A motion to move to the next item of business was proposed and duly seconded, in accordance with the Council's Constitution (Part 4B – Procedure Rules Governing how Full Council, Cabinet, Committees, Sub-Committees and Boards Operate section Rules of Debate) this was immediately put to the vote the result of which was:

RESOLVED

THAT the motion fell

Following debate on the substantive motion in accordance with the Council's Constitution (Part 4B – Procedure Rules Governing how Full Council, Cabinet, Committees, Sub Committees and Boards Operate section Voting) a named vote was requested by four Councillors, a named vote was taken the result of which was:

For (19)

Cllrs P Brading, G Brodie, V Churchman, W Drew, S Ellis, S Hendry, A Garratt, J Nicholson, M Oliver, T Outlaw, G Peace, M Price, R Quigley, C Quirk, R Redrup, J Robertson, P Spink, N Stuart, I Ward

Against (12)

Cllrs D Andre, R Downer, P Fuller, C Jarman, J Jones-Evans, P Jordan, J Lever, M Lilley, K Lucioni, J Medland, L Peacey Wilcox, I Stephens

Abstain (1)

Cllr C Critchison

RESOLVED:

That Full Council declares its intention to implement and approve the additional council tax premiums, to be applied from 01 April 2024, or as soon thereafter as

possible, subject to the legislation being in place with a figure to be determined for such premiums.

51. **Motions Submitted under Part 4A, Procedure Rule 9 of the Council's Constitution**

52. **By Councillor Lilley**

Councillor M Lilley moved the following motion which was duly seconded:

In light of eligibility of free school meals has risen by 63% over the last 4 years on Isle of Wight and eligibility of free school meals being an indicator of child poverty:

Isle of Wight Council resolves to reaffirm its motion of 16th January 2019, to reduce child poverty on the Isle of Wight over 5 years up to 2028, through development of a specific child poverty reduction strategy with targets and outcomes.

Following debate a vote was taken the results were as follows:

RESOLVED:

THAT the Isle of Wight Council resolves to reaffirm its motion of 16th January 2019, to reduce child poverty on the Isle of Wight over 5 years up to 2028, through development of a specific child poverty reduction strategy with targets and outcomes.

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

Cllr N Stuart submitted a written question, the Cabinet Member for Levelling up, Regeneration, Business Development and Tourism provided a written response. (MQ 03/23).

CHAIRMAN

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Public Question time

To view any public questions that were put to this committee, they will be listed as an additional PDF document below the public question time section within the online minutes, an example is displayed below:

32. [Public Question Time](#) PDF 87 KB

Questions must be delivered in writing
later than 5pm on Friday, 15 January 20

Additional documents:

- [PQ 11-21](#)  PDF 85 KB
- [PQ 12-21](#)  PDF 90 KB

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Full Council – 15 March 2023

Written question from Mr B Hardy on behalf of the Youth Council to the Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Education and Skills

'How will the Council, in the next five years, ensure that young people who have been brought up in low income households are provided with opportunities to allow them an equal chance to forge a successful future? And how will young people be consulted in this?'

Thank you for your continued support.

Response

Thank you for your question. All young people have a right to high quality education and training that opens up pathways to forge successful futures. The pandemic has exacerbated the inequities and educational outcome gaps for those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds nationally and locally and we are determined to close those gaps.

The Isle of Wight Council invest in the early years so that children get off to a good start. We have a good take up of early years education and children achieve well. Support is provided to early years settings through our inclusion and advisory services. In 2022, 99% of children aged 3 and 4 accessed early years provision on the Isle of Wight compared to 92% nationally.

Resources and training for schools to assist in tackling educational disadvantage have been produced and shared with/used with schools for some time; these have been refreshed by the school improvement team and are being rolled out once more, including through project work with schools. These are based upon the latest research undertaken through the Education Endowment Foundation.

The DfE provides additional funding to address the specific needs of children eligible for free school meals known as pupil premium. All schools are required to have a Pupil Premium Strategy which should be available on their website; the school improvement team is available to support the planning, implementation and evaluation of these strategies annually.

The school improvement team has produced a statement of intent known as the 'Twenty Strands' to improve outcomes for groups of children experiencing vulnerability. This has been compiled with the input of children and young people. Again, it is based upon the latest research of what works. We are encouraging schools and services to use that document to improve outcomes.

The Isle of Wight Council provides support to all young people to apply for and secure an appropriate place in post 16 education or training. In 2022-23 a guaranteed place was secured for 98.3% of all young people on the Island, the highest in the SE region and significantly above national average. Currently 96.2% are in education, employment, or training (Dec 2022), compared with 94.0% nationally. The Island offers a broad and comprehensive range of accessible post 16 academic, technical, and vocational options in school sixth forms, the Isle of Wight

College, and work-based training providers. Examples of support for those in vulnerable groups or facing financial hardship includes:

- The Council's careers and participation service, Island Futures, provides 1:1 Careers information, advice, and guidance to enable young people to transition successfully into post 16 pathways, prioritising those who are most vulnerable and who require additional support.
- Young people in low-income households are supported to access the 16-19 Bursary Fund, which is guaranteed for some. Every post 16 provider offers a discretionary bursary fund for those requiring financial support to allow them to stay and progress in education.
- The Uni Connect programme, in partnership with Southern Universities Network, ensures access to higher education is not limited by young people's background, location, or characteristics. It is supporting young people on the Island to make informed choices about their options into higher education and to minimise the barriers.
- Opportunities which focus on students from low-income backgrounds are actively highlighted to schools, for example Nuffield Research Placements which prioritise students from low-income backgrounds and those who are the first in their immediate family to attend university.
- Employability Hubs are being developed from 2023 which will provide new pathways for young people with SEND to access employment opportunities on the Island, working with employers to ensure equal access to jobs and careers.

The Holiday Activity and Food Programme has been developed and funded through the Department for Education. It has recognised that school holidays can be pressure points for some families, with children from low-income households being less likely to access organised out-of-school activities, more likely to experience 'unhealthy holidays' in terms of nutrition and physical health and more likely to experience social isolation.

The DfE has funded the Isle of Wight £432,000 to deliver the programme in 2023-24 and have confirmed funding through to March 2025.

The Isle of Wight Programme has ensured broad access to the scheme for eligible families through its network of 11 Providers based on the Island. In 2022-23 the programme reached over 1400 children, 37% of benefit-related FSM children compared to 26% nationally.

Feedback from children and parents directly to Providers informs their continual improvement. As a Programme, we recognize that the programme currently reflects a primary-age bias in attendance, reflecting the national figures. We have initiated a teen-voice project to ensure we can reflect the wants and needs of a secondary-age audience in 2023-24 and 2024-25.

With all of the above programmes we are very happy to engage with the Youth Council to ascertain where we can strengthen provision still further as it is vital that we engage proactively with young people to inform what we do.