



Minutes

Name of meeting	FULL COUNCIL
Date and Time	WEDNESDAY 19 JULY 2023 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM
Venue	COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs C Critchison (Chairman), K Love (Vice-Chairman), D Adams, D Andre, J Bacon, M Beston, 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, M Lilley, K Lucioni, J Medland, C Mosdell, J Nicholson, M Oliver, T Outlaw, G Peace, L Peacey-Wilcox, R Quigley, C Quirk, R Redrup, J Robertson, P Spink, I Stephens, N Stuart and I Ward
Apologies	Cllrs M Price

12. **Minutes**

RESOLVED:

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 17 May 2023 be approved.

13. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations at this stage.

14. **Public Question Time**

Written public questions were submitted by Mrs R Richards (PQ-33-23), Ms E Brothers (PQ-34-23) and K Burke (PQ-35-23).

Ms E Brothers asked a supplementary question, could examples of where equal opportunities had been identified in an Equality Impact Assessment where adverse impact had been identified the Cabinet Member for Finance, Climate Change and Biosphere advised that he would provide a written response.

Mr A Whitaker asked what was being done to protect the listed clock tower in Shanklin, the Cabinet Member for Finance, Climate Change and Biosphere advised that he would look into the matter and provide a response,

Mr Whitaker asked when the lift in Shanklin would be painted, it had been scheduled in the budget for a number of years, however the work had not been carried out. The Cabinet Member for Economy, Regeneration, Culture and Leisure advised that there was a schedule of works and she would advise when work was taking place.

Cllr S Parkes asked a question regarding the number of House of Multiple Occupancy in Sandown and groups congregating on the beach, the Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services, Community Protection, Waste and ICT advised that she would be in contact with the Parish Council to arrange a meeting regarding this issue.

Cllr S Parkes asked a supplementary question regarding the Eastern Bay vision, the Cabinet Member for Economy, Regeneration, Culture and Leisure advised that the vision fed into the current place planning work being undertaken for the Bay area.

Mr O McClean from the Youth Council asked a question regarding providing subsidised or more accessible transport to and from activities to reduce isolation and loneliness in young people, the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Lifelong Skills advised that this was a matter that the council could consider in more detail, although Southern Vectis were proved with funds to provide concessionary fares with a discount for young people.

15. **Chairman's Official Announcements**

The Chairman advised that she had attended several events, which included:

- Welcome reception for visitors from Coburg
- Star Awards celebrating achievements of those in care
- Isle of Wight Education awards
- Armed Forces day event held in Ryde

The Chairman acknowledged the achievements made by the Isle of Wight team at the Island games in Guernsey.

Thanks were given to the Vice Chairman who had attended some events on her behalf.

16. **Leaders Update Report**

The Leader introduced her report and congratulated the Island team for their achievements at the Island games. She went on to advise that she and the Leaders of the councils that are part of the Island's Forum had written to Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities setting out key issues for Islands. The Leader reiterated her view that the priority for the Island was to continue to press the government for fair funding for the Isle of Wight Council.

She advised that she was under pressure to support the Southampton, Hampshire and Portsmouth devolution deal, which she was reluctant to do at this stage as the Island would not benefit from it.

A question was asked regarding the closure of Dash, and what would be done to help with support, the Leader advised that she would meet to discuss the matter.

An enquiry was made regarding the recommendations put forward on the acquisition strategy, the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Adult Services and Housing, Public Health and Homelessness advised that work was ongoing, however he was cautious with council tax payers money.

Questions were raised regarding the proposed development at Nicholson Road in Ryde, the Leader informed Council that there had been an issue regarding funding, however discussions were taking place.

Concern was raised regarding the number of island residents who did not have a home, the Leader advised that a dedicated member of staff in housing was in post to look into the issue.

Frustration regarding what seemed to be lack of action in building houses for Island people was expressed, the Leader confirmed that there were allocated sites for housing development were coming forward, discussions with registered housing providers were also ongoing for developments similar to that at Branstone.

17. Report of the Monitoring Officer

18. Appointments to Committees

The Monitoring Officer advised that nominations had been received from the Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils (IWALC) for the positions on Corporate Scrutiny, Health and Wellbeing Board and Planning Committee.

The appointments were proposed and duly seconded.

A vote was taken the result of which was:

RESOLVED:

- (i) THAT IWALC's representative Emma Cox be appointed to continue to serve on the Planning Committee as a non-voting member.
- (ii) THAT IWALC's representative Simon Cooke be appointed to serve on the Corporate Scrutiny Committee as a voting member.

THAT IWALC's representative June Davison be appointed to serve on the Health and Wellbeing Board as a voting member.

19. Urgent Business

There are two items of business which are:

- (1) the appointment to a vacancy on the Appointments and Employment Committee – for absolute clarity - it is a seat allocated to the Conservative

- Group and Full Council is obliged to appoint in accordance with the wishes of that Group; and
- (2) the consequential vacancy for the post of vice-chair of that committee as Cllr Joe Robertson occupied that position.

The Chairman of the Council was of the opinion that both vacancies needed to be filled as a matter of urgency due the next scheduled meeting of the Full Council being not until 20 September 2023 and the local authority is currently undertaking a review of its staffing structure so delay in transacting these two items of business would not be in the best interests of the local authority in these circumstances, particularly in view of the proposed staff structure implementation date.

Councillor S Ellis was nominated and duly seconded for the vacant position on the Appointments and Employment Committee, and as Vice Chairman.

A vote was taken the result was:

RESOLVED:

THAT Councillor S Ellis be appointed to the vacant post on the Appointments and Employment Committee and be Vice Chairman.

20. **Motion by Cllr G Brodie**

Cllr G Brodie moved the following amended motion which was duly seconded:

Full Council agrees to establish a politically proportionate 'Future Governance Working Group' to make recommendations to Full Council January 2024 via the Audit and Governance Committee regarding moving to a Committee system of governance (including the future Committee structure, decision-making powers, etc.). The intention being to recommend for approval a formal resolution to that meeting to bring about such a change in governance with effect on and from the Annual Council 2024.

The Future Governance Working Group shall consist of ten councillors, namely any 3 councillors from the Alliance Group, any 4 councillors from the Conservative Group, any 1 councillor from the Empowering Islanders Group, any 1 councillor from the Liberal Democrat Group, and any 1 non-aligned councillor, plus staff support.

Its terms of reference are to develop a new Committee system of governance for the Isle of Wight Council and to make recommendations for its implementation to Full Council.

In so doing, the Future Governance Working Group shall, amongst other things, consider how other local authorities have made a transition back to the Committee system of governance model and what lessons can be learnt from that experience, and shall consider examples of best practice, to inform those recommendations.

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

RESOLVED:

THAT Full Council agrees to establish a politically proportionate 'Future Governance Working Group' to make recommendations to Full Council January 2024 via the Audit and Governance Committee regarding moving to a Committee system of governance (including the future Committee structure, decision-making powers, etc.). The intention being to recommend for approval a formal resolution to that meeting to bring about such a change in governance with effect on and from the Annual Council 2024.

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

A request to suspend Procedure Rule Part 4B Section 7 (c) (Motions without Notice) to change the order of business on the agenda and bring forward agenda item 9 (e) which was duly seconded.

A vote was taken the results were as follows:

RESOLVED:

THAT suspension of Procedure Rule Part 4B Section 7 (c) be agreed.

21a **By Councillor C Jarman**

Councillor C Jarman withdrew his motion.

22. **By Councillor M Lilley**

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

That every child and young person on the Isle of Wight should have accessible out of school youth service/provision that is of a consistent quality where ever they live on the Island.

That the Council as the Unitary Authority works with every parish, community and town council, youth organisations, and voluntary sector to ensure every child and young person has equality in access to a youth (out of school) service across the Island.

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

RESOLVED:

THAT the motion be discussed at the Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Children's Service, Education and Skills and brought to Full Council once that had been undertaken.

23. By Councillor J Bacon

Councillor J Bacon moved the following motion which was duly seconded:

The health of the oceans and the waters that surround us as an Island are inextricably linked with our climate, human health, wellbeing and prosperity. However, decades of irresponsible marine exploitation and pollution have led to significant levels of degradation, and this, together with the detrimental impacts of our changing climate on marine ecosystems, has led to national and global recognition that the world ocean is in crisis.

On the Isle of Wight we are witnessing the ocean crisis first-hand. Poor water quality is impacting seafood and safe bathing. Our beaches suffer from litter with each tide, much of it plastic, and our coastline is fragile, increasing the risk to infrastructure and properties, and increasing the risk of flooding and storm damage.

Island residents are being disproportionately impacted relative to inland communities, in particular because the ocean is a key part of our heritage and economy.

Urgent action is needed to halt these devastating changes. We must do what we can to assist in recovering the health of the ocean and we must strive to develop a sustainable and equitable local blue economy that delivers both ocean recovery alongside local prosperity.

We must also recognise the extensive local designations that exist on the coasts and waters around us and the fact that the entirety of the waters that surround us have been given UNESCO Biosphere status. These designations provide potential tools to address the issues and achieve the aims set out in this motion, which also tie in with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

This Motion therefore asks the Isle of Wight Council to declare and support an urgent need for Ocean Recovery as follows:

We recognise that we need ocean recovery to meet our net zero carbon targets, and that we need net zero carbon to recover our ocean.

The Council therefore pledges, through requesting Cabinet to:

1. Report to Full Council within 6 months on the actions and projects that will begin an ocean recovery around the Island.
2. Embed ocean recovery in all strategic decisions, plans, budgets and approaches to decisions by the Council (particularly in planning, regeneration, skills and economic policy), aligning with climate change mitigation and adaptation

requirements, and considering ocean-based solutions in our journey towards a carbon-neutral and climate-resilient future.

3. Promote close working between the Isle of Wight Council and all relevant partners with interests and responsibilities relating to the waters around us. In particular ensure that local planning policy supports ocean recovery, working closely with the Marine Management Organisation to embed strong links between the Local Plan and the South Marine Plan to support ocean recovery.
4. Ensure that the forthcoming Local Nature Recovery Strategy strives to support ocean recovery and that this is supported and enhanced by the Local Planning Strategy and relevant local, national and international designations.
5. Work with partners locally and nationally, in particular SIFCA, so as to deliver increased sustainability in local marine industries, including the local fishing industry, and develop a sustainable and equitable blue economy that delivers ocean recovery alongside local prosperity.
6. Through local schools and colleges, seek to grow ocean literacy and marine citizenship as well as, wherever possible, through physical and digital means, promote similar understanding and appreciation of the ocean and its importance amongst all residents, local businesses and visitors to the Island.
7. Write to the Government asking them to put the ocean into net recovery by 2030 by
 - a) Ensuring Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities and Natural England have the resources they need to effectively research and monitor our growing number of marine protected areas, and to set and enforce appropriate fishing levels that support local economies and deliver environmental sustainability.
 - b) Ensuring coastal communities have a meaningful say in the development of marine policy to ensure it delivers equitable and sustainable outcomes.
 - c) Appoint a dedicated Minister for Coastal Communities.
 - d) And by listening to marine scientific advice, including marine social science, to update the Marine Policy Statement and produce a national Ocean Recovery Strategy which will:
 - i. Enable the recovery of marine ecosystems rather than managing degraded or altered habitats in their reduced state.
 - ii. Consider levelling up, marine conservation, energy, industrial growth, flood and coastal erosion risk management, climate adaptation and fisheries policy holistically rather than as competing interests.
 - iii. Develop a smarter approach to managing the health of the entire ocean that moves beyond Marine Protected Areas and enables links to be made across sectors towards sustainability.
 - iv. Establish improved processes for understanding the benefits of ocean recovery, leaving no doubt the links between this and human lives, livelihoods, and wellbeing.
 - v. Stop plastic pollution at source by strengthening the regulations around single-use plastics and set standards for microfibre-catching filters to ensure that all new domestic and commercial washing machines are fitted with a filter that captures a high percentage of microfibres produced in the wash cycle.
 - vi. Place a duty on water companies engaged in sewage disposal to ensure untreated sewage is not discharged from storm overflows

- into inland and coastal waters and to provide targets and timelines to ensure this change is achieved.
- vii. At the one hour point in the discussion on motions, a proposal to suspend Procedure Rule in Part 4A section 9 which allows the total time allowed for motions be one hour and was duly seconded.

A vote was taken the result of which was:

RESOLVED:

THAT suspension of Procedure Rule 4A, section 9 be agreed.

During the debate Councillor P Fuller declared an interest in the item as he was the Vice Chairman of Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority.

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

RESOLVED:

THAT the Isle of Wight Council to declare and support an urgent need for Ocean Recovery as follows:

We recognise that we need ocean recovery to meet our net zero carbon targets, and that we need net zero carbon to recover our ocean.

The Council therefore pledges, through requesting Cabinet to:

1. Report to Full Council within 6 months on the actions and projects that will begin an ocean recovery around the Island.
2. Embed ocean recovery in all strategic decisions, plans, budgets and approaches to decisions by the Council (particularly in planning, regeneration, skills and economic policy), aligning with climate change mitigation and adaptation requirements, and considering ocean-based solutions in our journey towards a carbon-neutral and climate-resilient future.
3. Promote close working between the Isle of Wight Council and all relevant partners with interests and responsibilities relating to the waters around us. In particular ensure that local planning policy supports ocean recovery, working closely with the Marine Management Organisation to embed strong links between the Local Plan and the South Marine Plan to support ocean recovery.
4. Ensure that the forthcoming Local Nature Recovery Strategy strives to support ocean recovery and that this is supported and enhanced by the Local Planning Strategy and relevant local, national and international designations.
5. Work with partners locally and nationally, in particular SIFCA, so as to deliver increased sustainability in local marine industries, including the local fishing industry, and develop a sustainable and equitable blue economy that delivers ocean recovery alongside local prosperity.
6. Through local schools and colleges, seek to grow ocean literacy and marine citizenship as well as, wherever possible, through physical and digital means, promote similar understanding and appreciation of the ocean and its importance amongst all residents, local businesses and visitors to the Island.
7. Write to the Government asking them to put the ocean into net recovery by 2030 by
 - a) Ensuring Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities and Natural England have the resources they need to effectively research and monitor our growing number of marine protected areas, and to set and

- enforce appropriate fishing levels that support local economies and deliver environmental sustainability.
- b) Ensuring coastal communities have a meaningful say in the development of marine policy to ensure it delivers equitable and sustainable outcomes.
- c) Appoint a dedicated Minister for Coastal Communities.
- d) And by listening to marine scientific advice, including marine social science, to update the Marine Policy Statement and produce a national Ocean Recovery Strategy which will:
 - i. Enable the recovery of marine ecosystems rather than managing degraded or altered habitats in their reduced state.
 - ii. Consider levelling up, marine conservation, energy, industrial growth, flood and coastal erosion risk management, climate adaptation and fisheries policy holistically rather than as competing interests.
 - iii. Develop a smarter approach to managing the health of the entire ocean that moves beyond Marine Protected Areas and enables links to be made across sectors towards sustainability.
 - iv. Establish improved processes for understanding the benefits of ocean recovery, leaving no doubt the links between this and human lives, livelihoods, and wellbeing.
 - v. Stop plastic pollution at source by strengthening the regulations around single-use plastics and set standards for microfibre-catching filters to ensure that all new domestic and commercial washing machines are fitted with a filter that captures a high percentage of microfibres produced in the wash cycle.
 - vi. Place a duty on water companies engaged in sewage disposal to ensure untreated sewage is not discharged from storm overflows into inland and coastal waters and to provide targets and timelines to ensure this change is achieved.

24. By Councillor D Andre

Due to time constraints this item was not considered.

24a By Councillor K Love

Due to time constraints this item was not considered.

25. Member Questions to the Leader and to any other Cabinet Member

A question had been provided in advance of the meeting from Councillor M Lilley regarding the announcement to close ticket offices at train stations, in particular the recent money spent on the upgrades made as part of the Ryde interchange works. The Cabinet Member for Transport and Infrastructure, Highways PFI and Transport Strategy shared his concerns and had received information from South West Trains that it was unlikely to physically close the space, a different operating model may be implemented.

Councillor T Outlaw asked if the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Adult Services and Housing, Public Health and Homelessness could guarantee delivery of

affordable homes at Berry Hill, The Deputy Leader advised that he would provide a written response.

Councillor N Stuart asked a question relating to the reinstatement of the Military Road in the future, the Cabinet Member for Transport of Infrastructure, Highways PFI and Transport Strategy advised that the most pressing highway issue on the Island and land ownership had added complications.

Councillor P Brading asked when the expected speeding review would be available, the Cabinet Member for Transport and Infrastructure, Highways PFI and Transport Strategy informed Council that the report was expected in October/November.

Councillor A Garratt asked if the 2024/25 budget would extend the public consultation in bringing forward indicative savings, the Cabinet Member for Finance, Climate Change and Biosphere advised that sessions would be open for all Councillors after the summer and welcomed cross chamber involvement.

CHAIRMAN



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 – 19 July 2023

Written question from Mrs R Richards to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Lifelong Skills

Considering the recent report to Schools Forum that 27 schools on the Isle of Wight are predicting a budget deficit within the next three years, can the Isle of Wight Council confirm that it will provide additional financial resource to ensure that the Southampton and Isle of Wight Music Hub can continue to work with 100% of Isle of Wight schools should the Hub be successful in the bid to the DfE and Arts Council England as set out in Motion 8c?

Response

The Isle of Wight Music Hub offers subsidy to all schools across the island as follows:

1 A free term WCIT (whole class instrumental tuition) worth £400 for one year group in their school. We encourage all schools strongly to buy this in for a whole year (paying for term's 2 and 3) in order to get the full benefit of covering the national curriculum with a particular year group. Delivered in 74% of school last year

2 Class sets of instruments are also fully subsidised so schools can borrow class sets for free with one of our commissioned deliverers OR deliver their own teaching in-house with our instruments.

3 A large programme of free live music events, workshops and activities for schools to sign up to take part in delivered in partnership with local cultural and heritage organisations which 80% of IOW schools took part in this year

4 Free CPD for non music specialists to support them to write and deliver their own music curriculum coverage across the whole school. Every school is supported to create their own music development plans via our toolkit and in one to one meetings with our curriculum specialists (again subsidised from the music hub budget). This year we have worked with 68% of schools in this way.

5 Free digital resources supporting vocal, curriculum and instrumental learning are ongoing and shared with schools regularly; this service is utilised by 100% of schools.

6 A remissions policy to support free instrumental learning for pupil premium children, children in challenging circumstances and affordable instrument loan plus a free mentoring programme by referral from IOW YOT and SEND settings

Although our co-curricular programme is also fully subsidised we know that there are costs passed on to schools particularly around transport to venues for accessing activities and so on. Despite this we have reached 80% of schools this year so we know that our schools do see the value of investing in this.

Re the bid we are currently in conversation to lead a bid for our prescribed geographical area as set out by the DfE (Southampton, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth

and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole) in which Southampton and Isle of Wight will be the lead partner in a consortium with the other areas. Southampton City Council are fully supportive of this both corporately and politically. Should the music hub be successful in our bid to DfE and Arts Council we will continue to offer schools this same level of service. If we are unsuccessful we will still be commissioned to deliver this work for the island regardless although we may have less funds to put towards this depending on the overarching strategy coming from the lead hub in the region.

Full Council – 19 July 2023

Written question from Ms E Brothers to the Leader

Please would the Leader of Council explain why no response has been received/published to my request for information at the 22 February 2023 meeting on the budget and what is the answer to the question?

Question Submitted to Meeting on Wednesday 22 February 2023

In respect of the budget 2023-24 Equality Impact Statement (last paragraph of The Aims, Objectives and Expected Outcomes and the responses to Key Questions to Consider in Assessing Potential Impact), what are the main Equality Impact Assessments planned by each Cabinet Member in fulfilling their reserved obligations?
Equality Act (2010) S149

Response

I can only apologise that a response was not provided as agreed.

As you have rightly indicated the EIA for the budget paper is a high-level EIA. As we progress to implementing savings, where required, a detailed EIA will be undertaken as part of the implementation process and a detailed response will follow.

The budget and council tax setting 2023/24 report received by Full Council at its budget setting meeting on 22 February 2023 identified that as a public body, the council must have due regard to our equality duties when making decisions. Specifically, the Council has to comply with Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. This provides that decision makers must have due regard to the elimination of discrimination, victimisation and harassment, advancing equalities, and fostering good relations between different groups (race, disability, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion/belief and marriage/civil partnership).

The report highlighted that the savings proposals, may require further consultation and appropriate equality impact assessments to be considered before implementation can take place. There is no automatic requirement therefore, for an equality impact assessment to be undertaken for each and every budget proposal and as such it is for the portfolio holder with their service director to determine, with appropriate legal advice as necessary, whether an equality impact assessment is required before a saving can be confirmed for delivery.

Subsequent to Full Council approval of the budget at that meeting, each portfolio holder, with their respective service directors, have instigated the necessary planning and preparatory work required to deliver budget savings proposals with due consideration to the need for equality impact assessment as appropriate. Some of these impact assessments may be internal to the council as they relate to staffing matters. If there were any specific areas of budget savings that were of interest to you in respect of equality impact considerations, I am sure that the relevant portfolio holder will be only too pleased to respond.

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Full Council – 19 July 2023

Written question from K Burke to the Cabinet Member for Transport and Infrastructure, Highways PFI and Transport Strategy

I work in Newport and need a parking permit during the working day. My nearest long stay is by the quay, which is often full, and is a fair walk from my work place. The permit charge has just increased to £60 per month. If I didn't have a permit, it would cost me £12.50 per day. The county hall car park is only available to me on weekends, which is when I don't need it. If I worked for the council, my permit would cost me £15 per month and if I paid per day, it would cost £1.10.

I am not against employee perks and the need to attract and retain staff. However, does such a large difference in costs seem fair or appropriate, especially in light of the financial crisis?

Response

I note your concerns around public car parking and the costs you are incurring. The Council continues to review public car parking charges on an annual basis, particularly in light of ongoing budget pressures.

Unfortunately, I have to advise you that staff parking is at the discretion of a respective employer and in the case of the Isle of Wight Council is set out within the Council's pay policy (which is reviewed annually) see link to document here: <https://www.iow.gov.uk/council-and-councillors/transparency-our-data/our-workforce/trade-union-facility-time-and-pay-policy/> (iow.gov.uk)

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