



# Record of decision

**THE FOLLOWING DECISIONS WERE TAKEN ON WEDNESDAY, 16TH JUNE, 2021 BY THE CABINET**

**THE CALL IN PERIOD FOR THESE DECISIONS EXPIRES AT 5.00 PM ON FRIDAY, 25 JUNE 2021**

Members of the Cabinet who were present

Cllrs L Peacey-Wilcox (Chairman), D Andre, J Bacon, P Fuller, Jarman, J Jones-Evans, P Jordan, K Love and I Stephens

Members also present(non-voting)

Cllrs G Brodie, C Critchison, A Garratt, S Hastings, S Hendry

Officers Present

C Ashman, S Chandler, S Crocker, S MacDonald, J Metcalfe, C Potter, C Shand, C Tozer

Confirmed as a true record of decisions taken .....

**Leader of the Council**

<b>Agenda item</b>	Minutes
Decision reference	1 – 21/22
Decision Taken	The minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2021 were noted by the Cabinet as a true record as they were not Cabinet Members at the time of the last meeting.

<b>Agenda item</b>	Declarations of Interest
Decision reference	2 – 21/22
Decision Taken	Councillor Fuller declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 5 on the agenda as he was the Chairman of the Local Access Forum (LAF), although the LAF had had no input into this matter.  Councillor Stephens declared an interest also in Item 5. As a bus user he owned a bus pass.

<b>Agenda item</b>	Public Question Time - Maximum 15 Minutes for Written Questions and 15 Minutes for Oral Questions
Decision reference	3 – 21/22
Decision Taken	<p>A written question was received from Paul Coueslant (PQ 30-21). The Leader read out the question and provided a response.</p> <p>An oral question was asked by Cameron Palin, who asked whether the Council could give an update on Ryde Arena. The Chief Executive confirmed that a written update would be provided.</p>

<b>Agenda item</b>	Chairman's Announcements
Decision reference	4 – 21/22
Summary of Discussion	<p>The Chairman reported that over the last few weeks she had been in back to back meetings and reading through many documents from many organisations.</p> <p>There had been some success with the Welcome Back Fund which was to help with such things as the cleaning of public toilets and the emptying of bins to help the island get back to normal business. Town and Parish Councils would shortly be notified of the funds available.</p> <p>A letter regarding the Levelling Up Fund was going in to government later in the week, which was giving support to the MP to try and obtain funding for projects on the island.</p> <p>The Chairman had been informed that symptoms of the new 'delta' variant of COVID were a sore throat and runny nose. People should be aware of this and self-test if they had symptoms.</p> <p>Thanks were expressed to council staff pre- and post-election for their hard work. The Chairman was very pleased with her new Cabinet.</p>

<b>Agenda item</b>	National Bus Strategy
Decision reference	5 – 21/22
Summary of	This was the first piece of policy being brought forward by

Discussion	the new administration. It was a positive policy which was being directed by government and for which there were tight timescales. The requirement was to enter into an Enhanced Partnership with the local bus provider and to notify DfT of this by 30 June 2021. Following this, a Bus Strategy improvement plan must be delivered by the end of October 2021 and an enhancement plan put in place by March 2022. Funding of £100,000 had been received to help with the project. Liaison was taking place with Hampshire County Council for joint commissioning to help deliver the island's plan.
Decision Taken	Option 2 – To approve establishing an Enhanced Partnership advising the Department for Transport of the council's intention and publish the required formal notice by the end of June 2021.
Reason for the decision and corporate objective it aligns with	<p>In March 2021 the Department for Transport (DfT) published the National Bus Strategy for England 'Bus Back Better' Bus Back Better (<a href="https://publishing.service.gov.uk">publishing.service.gov.uk</a>). It is a requirement of the strategy that all Local Transport Authorities (LTAs) in England commit to enter Enhanced Partnerships with local bus operators by the end of June 2021, with the intention of formalising the partnership by April 2022. LTAs that wish to pursue franchising may do so, but they must commit to implementing the Enhanced Partnership in the meantime.</p> <p>Creating an ambitious Bus Service Improvement Plan and establishing an Enhanced partnership with Local Bus Operators would have a positive impact on all four corporate priorities of the IW Council, as set out in the Corporate Plan 2019-2022: Growth, Regeneration, Opportunity and Wellbeing.</p>
Options considered and rejected	Option 1 - Not to approve establishing an Enhanced Partnership with Local Bus Operators or submit a proposal to seek franchising powers and therefore not publish the required formal notice by the end of June 2021.

<b>Agenda item</b>	Appointment of Cabinet Committee - Local Outbreak Engagement Board
Decision reference	6 – 21/22
Summary of Discussion	The Local Outbreak Engagement Board had been set up as a result of the COVID pandemic. The Chairman indicated her intention to continue with the Board and the Cabinet members responsible would be Cllrs Peacey-

	Wilcox, I Stephens, D Andre and K Love. The meeting planned for 29 June would be cancelled unless there was any urgent decision needed.
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<b>Agenda item</b>	Consideration of and decision on the report of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman
Decision reference	7 – 21/22
Summary of Discussion	<p>The Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Education and Skills had recently become aware of the matter when taking on her new portfolio and had discussed the matter fully with the Director of Children’s Services. The report would be circulated. All the recommendations from the LGSCO had been actioned, including relevant staff training within the timescales stipulated. The Cabinet Member would be keeping a watchful eye on the matter. The Director confirmed that the matter related to a complex finding at a Special Needs tribunal, where the Council had erred. The findings had been accepted and lessons learnt. Members could be reassured that there had been a recent Ofsted report of the SEN service which was very positive. The findings of the report however had been accepted.</p> <p>The matter had been published in the media and it was hoped that the Ombudsman case would bring about change. JB had concerns as had been approached by 2 residents raising concerns not dissimilar to this. He had raised with officers and that DA would pick it up. Would need to ensure that all was as it should be.</p> <p>The media would also get a copy of the report if they had not already to enable good reporting and an understanding of the subject matter. It was confirmed that the report was widely available in the public domain but copies could be supplied if necessary.</p>
Decision Taken	<p>(Option A): That the Cabinet adopts the report from the Director of Children’s Services as the Cabinet’s section 5A (8) report, and endorses the response from Children’s Services in that report to address the findings and to implement all the recommendations of the LGSCO.</p> <p>That the Cabinet notes that all members of the local authority and the Monitoring Officer will be provided with a copy of the Cabinet’s prepared section 5A (8) report as soon as practicable if not already given a copy.</p> <p>That Cabinet considers the LGSCO report and the</p>

	Council's response with regard to the actions undertaken and planned actions to be completed within the timescales stipulated.
Reason for the decision and corporate objective it aligns with	<p>Ensuring that children are supported to achieve the very best for themselves when they reach adulthood is a strategic aim.</p> <p>The LGSCO has produced their report and has made its findings and recommendations known to the local authority. The local authority has accepted these findings and recommendations in full.</p>
Options considered and rejected	Option B: That the Cabinet does not accept the findings or recommendations of the LGSCO and does not adopt and does not endorse the response from Children's Services.

<b>Agenda item</b>	Cabinet Member Announcements
Decision reference	8 – 21/22
Summary of Discussion	<p>The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Business Development had spent a busy few weeks familiarising herself with the detail of her new portfolio. She had been working with officers, Visit Isle of Wight and training providers to address the shortage of staff in the tourism and hospitality sector. In the short term, actions would be job fairs, free short courses for upskilling and the promotion of opportunities for older people. In the medium to longer term there was to be an Island Skills Plan coming to Cabinet for consideration shortly. Later in the week a bid was to be submitted to the Levelling Up Fund for a £7 million package of projects in the East Cowes area, including the improvement of marine-side infrastructure and to transform the public realm, including a harbour viewing platform at East Cowes Esplanade.</p> <p>The Cabinet member for Children's Services, Education and Skills reported on the decision to halt the closure of Chillerton and Rookley school and expressed disappointment that the news had been leaked to the media before parents could be informed. Work was taking place with staff to draw up a paper with a range of options to go out for prior consultation with parents, before coming to Cabinet. Due to the Queen's Jubilee in 2022 the school term times for 2021/22 would have to be slightly amended, however this should not prejudice any arrangements that parents may already have made. The Cabinet Member had asked staff to revisit term dates for 2022/23 and this would</p>

be considered at the next meeting of Cabinet in July.

The Cabinet Member for Environment, Heritage and Waste Management reported that with regard to Dinosaur Isle, he and Councillor Jones-Evans were addressing the situation as a matter of urgency. With regard to waste, a fly tipping task and finish group had been mentioned prior to the election and this group would now be brought together to deal with fly tipping issues. Officers had been tasked with a programme to deal with litter in the island's tourist areas this summer. He was conscious that litter would be an issue and wanted to do everything possible to minimise problems. The Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan would be coming forward for decisions on adoption fairly soon.

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Housing Needs expressed thanks to The Director of Adult Social Care and her team for work in bringing him up to speed in recent weeks. The work done by carers in the voluntary sector and in-house throughout the pandemic was recognised. The Cabinet member issued a plea to people visiting the island to take a COVID test before arriving to avoid bringing the virus to the island.

Cllr Stephens would be assisting with the portfolio in taking on the social care housing element. The portfolio was too big for one person to do a really good job, and Cllr Stephens long experience as a Councillor was welcomed. It was still early days in the role and the Cabinet member would be taking a deep dive into the financial matters that affect public health, housing and social care, with support from Cllr Jarman and the ASC team. No big decisions would be made about anything at this point but the Cabinet Member gave an assurance that he would be as inclusive and transparent as possible.

The Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Transport reported that a speed review was currently being undertaken on the island. No decisions would be made on specific 20mph zones until the strategic review was completed.

The Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance, Transformational Change and Resources acknowledged that the Council's finances had been stressed for some time, with additional challenges brought by COVID. The past weeks had been spent familiarising himself with the council's accounting and processes and questioning the existing financial plan and sources of revenue and debt.

	<p>He had also been assisting other members with the financial aspect of their portfolios. There was a commitment to openness and transparency including the council's financial status going forward. Key to successful regeneration on the island, wellness of residents and viability of businesses would be driving inbound incremental revenue and investments.</p>
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<b>Agenda item</b>	Consideration of the Forward Plan
Decision reference	9 – 21/22
Summary of Discussion	<p>Cllr Fuller reported that in the last few weeks he had been talking to officers the MP and other councillors regarding the acceleration of the Island Plan. The government white paper on Planning was currently in process. A paper would be brought to Cabinet on 15 July and it was hoped to start a consultation period afterwards, if approved. It would affect all residents and would be made high profile so that residents would feel very much included.</p>

<b>Agenda item</b>	Members' Question Time
Decision reference	10 – 21/22
Summary of Discussion	<p>Cllr Stephens asked whether more information could be included in the Forward Plan as it had been previously, to make it readable for residents, media and others and give a sense or purpose and value.</p>