



Minutes

Name of meeting	CABINET
Date and Time	THURSDAY 18 APRIL 2024 COMMENCING AT 5.00 PM
Venue	CONFERENCE ROOM 5, FLOOR 4, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs P Jordan (Chairman), D Andre, J Bacon, P Fuller, J Jones-Evans, K Lucioni and I Stephens
Also Present	Wendy Perera and Colin Rowland
Also Present (Virtual)	Christopher Potter
Apologies	Cllrs L Peacey-Wilcox

197. **Minutes**

RESOLVED:

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2024 be approved.

198. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest

199. **Public Question Time - Maximum 15 Minutes for Written Questions and 15 Minutes for Oral Questions**

There were no public questions.

200. **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman had no announcements to make.

201. **Report of the Cabinet Member for Planning, Coastal Protection and Flooding**

201a **Draft Island Planning Strategy**

Following the Full Council meeting on 20 March 2024 when the matter had been referred back to Cabinet, some discussion had since taken place regarding concerns over clarity in the wording of paragraph 6.15. Following this, the recommendation in the report had been amended to reword paragraph 6.15 and it was believed that the draft Strategy was now more robust. The amended wording

was read out and proposed and seconded. Cllr Lilley confirmed that the amendments satisfied the members of the Liberal Democrat group. Cllr Spink did not believe that all his comments had been taken on board and asked whether if a site allocation was found to be on “the best and most versatile agricultural land” that allocation would be removed from the plan. The Cabinet member for Planning Coastal Protection and Flooding indicated that there was a policy within the draft Strategy which dealt with agricultural land. The Leader indicated that a written response could be provided. A short period of disagreement then took place, and the meeting was adjourned to seek advice from the Monitoring Officer on the procedure to be followed. Upon reconvening, in accordance with Section 9 of Part 4B of the council’s constitution the chairman moved that Cllr Spink not be heard further which was seconded and the vote was carried.

The recommendation (as amended) was then voted upon and it was

RESOLVED:

To agree some of the Full Council recommended changes, all of the recommended changes from the Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Neighbourhoods and Regeneration and all of the recommendations from Corporate Scrutiny Committee to the draft Island Planning Strategy, with the changes as attached at Appendices 1, 2 and 3, but to replace all the text in column (e) (agreed change or reason why unsuitable) of Appendix 1 as it relates to paragraph matter i) paragraph 6.15, with the following:

“6.15: It is important to set out that any planning application submitted including those on allocated sites, should consider all relevant policies of the Development Plan, the NPPF and any relevant legislation. While the plan has sought to avoid a lot of cross-referencing within policies, it is acknowledged that many of the policies in the plan are interlinked and therefore no one policy should be considered in isolation. If, on the planning balance, the development proposal, including all allocated sites, is unacceptable it will be refused.”

and then

To recommend to Full Council that the draft Island Planning Strategy be approved and published for the Regulation 19 period for public representation and then submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for examination; and

To recommend to Full Council to delegate any final editorial and presentational changes to the Island Planning Strategy prior to publication and submission, to the Director of Communities in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning, Coastal Protection and Flooding, so long as they do not materially alter the intention of the version agreed by Full Council.

202. **Cabinet Member Announcements**

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health reported that The Dementia Strategy had undergone its year two review, there had been significant achievements which included shortlisting for the MJ awards 2024 as one

of six finalists in the area of Innovation in Adult and Children's Services, and the launching of a Carers' Passport. The Dementia Hub would officially open on 13 May. Work was ongoing on the Smokefree Generation initiative.

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Corporate Functions reported that drop-in sessions for improving education on the island were currently taking place, including school place planning, and all those interested in education on the island were encouraged to attend. The first two sessions had taken place, positive feedback had been received and further sessions were planned.

The Cabinet Member for Planning, Coastal Protection and Flooding reported that he had been to visit the south of the island to look at the areas that had been affected by coastal erosion. He had spoken to residents and business owners and heard about the challenges they were currently facing.

It was confirmed that the Draft Island Planning Strategy would be going to Full Council for a decision on 1 May.

The Cabinet Member for Economy, Regeneration, Culture and Leisure reported that Arts Council funding had been received for Cowes and Ryde libraries, and £500,000 for Dinosaur Isle. Funding had also been received for swimming pools on the island, and £250,000 capital funding from the IW Rural Fund for small businesses in rural areas. Expressions of Interest for the funding were invited before the end of May.

The Cabinet Member Regulatory Services, Community Protection and ICT commended the Emergency Planning Team for their work with the recent flooding in Cowes and confirmed that the Property Flood Resilience Fund was open for bids until the end of May.

203. Consideration of the Forward Plan

The contents of the Forward Plan were noted. No amendments were made.

204. Members' Question Time

Written questions had been received from Cllr P Spink (MQ 12-24) concerning a) the forthcoming judicial review regarding Westridge Farm, and b) the floating bridge settlement, and from Cllr C Jarman (MQ 13-24) concerning a) the reduction in hours to the Contact Centre and b) the disposal of council owned land for affordable housing. Responses were given by the Leader. The Deputy Leader also confirmed that details of tenderers and bidders would not go into the public domain until the conclusion of a procurement exercise and that it was important that such people were respected when doing business with the council.

Cllr Jarman asked a supplementary question enquiring whether there were any other items that had been agreed at Full Council that the Leader was not going to implement. The Leader responded that he could not say at this time whether the Alliance group would or would not be delivering any other amendments.

Cllr Lilley asked whether correspondence he had sent to the Deputy Leader and the relevant Cabinet Member in relation to concerns expressed by care providers and reassure the public that the care market would not be 'unstabliised' and that discussions would continue with the ICP. The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health responded that dialogue was ongoing with the ICP and confirmed that she would send Cllr Lilley a detailed written explanation.

Cllr Lilley also asked what the Cabinet would do to ensure that the Island's voice was heard when being represented on various bodies, as he was concerned that the health needs of Islanders were being dictated by Hampshire and that the island was seen as a 'junior' partner. The Cabinet Member had been reassured that we would be an equal partner but would provide a more detailed response in due course. An update on the Dental Strategy was also due to be provided.

CHAIRMAN

Member Question time of the Leader

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

29. Member Question Time of the Leader

- [View the background to item 29.](#)

A question must be submitted in writing on 17 November 2020.

Additional documents:

- [MQ - 15/20](#)  PDF 96 KB

This page is intentionally left blank

Cabinet – 18 April**Written question from Cllr Peter Spink to the Leader**

1. The Judicial Review in the planning consent re Westridge Farm is due to be heard at the Southampton Combined Court in July.
From what source is the cost of the IoW Council to defend this case being, or to be, drawn?
Can the expenditure be justified, given the limited funds of the Council and the strength of the case against it?

The cost of defending the judicial review claim is being met from existing legal budget. The claim is one to which, given the nature of part of the claim, there is special cost capping arrangement in place (the Aarhus Convention applies). As a result, there is a maximum adverse costs liability of £10,000 for the claimant, and £35,000 for the Council. Any costs exceeding these figures must be met by the parties from their own resources. The local planning authority considers the grant of planning permission to be a lawful and sound planning decision. As this matter is subject to live high court proceedings, it would be inappropriate to comment further.

2. Will the Leader explain why he was willing to allow Cllr Quigly, then chair of corporate scrutiny, to see the details of the floating bridge settlement but is not willing to allow the current chair the same opportunity?

On 22 November at Corporate Scrutiny Cttee the current chair, Cllr Robertson, who was chairing the meeting, asked the Leader if he would be prepared to allow him to see the settlement figure. The Leader's reply was that the chair of Corporate Scrutiny previous to Cllr Robertson, Cllr Quigley, had seen the settlement figure and as far as (we) were concerned that was the end of the matter in terms of the role of Scrutiny. At that same meeting Cllr Robertson agreed that was the end of the matter as far as he was concerned.

This page is intentionally left blank

Cabinet – 18 April**Written question from Cllr Chris Jarman to the Leader**

1. Is the Cabinet aware and do they support the decision of the Leader to disregard the democratically supported budget amendment provision that the Contact Centre opening on Saturday mornings should be retained to support those residents, many working, that are unable to attend Monday to Friday – noting that this was at zero net cost due to a small reduction of hours during the week when the resident demand was lowest.

The Cabinet supports the Leader with the decision to reduce the opening hours of the council's contact centre. Following a review of the numbers of calls received and the nature of enquiries being made it was identified that there was a limited number of calls being made by residents on a Saturday morning between 9am and 1pm. The data clearly demonstrated that our residents preferred to contact the council's contact centre on weekdays between 9am and 5pm and therefore the service was realigned around the needs of our customers. The refresh of the website has also given our residents the opportunity to self-serve and take advantage of the many automated functions which can include a request for an appointment or call back from an advisor thereby providing a more tailored service at a time convenient to the customer.

2. Does the Leader agree that council owned land should be used for council houses affordable to rent by those on the housing register and not sold to private developers to build houses that maximise their profits and Islanders cannot afford, and will the details, including the purchase price, of the 23 building plots owned by the council that the leader and his deputy propose to sell to private developers be concealed from the public?

The Council is working to provide housing for Islanders as a key corporate priority. All methods of delivery to enable this are considered appropriate whilst ensuring best value is achieved for council owned assets. There is no single preferred delivery method for housing.

The sites may be sold to a range of providers or developers that build market housing. It is the council's priority to deliver affordable housing wherever possible. Offers made for sites will be to be treated in confidence. While negotiations are on-going confidentiality will remain in place.

Once the sales are complete the details of price agreed will be made publicly available. Approval by the council's Finance Director or team is always required as part of any formal council approval to dispose, ensuring best consideration is achieved.

This page is intentionally left blank