



# Minutes

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| Name of meeting | <b>FULL COUNCIL</b>  |
| Date and Time   | <b>WEDNESDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2021 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM</b>  |
| Venue           | <b>COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, ISLE OF WIGHT</b>   |
| Present         | Cllrs G Brodie (Chairman), C Critchison (Vice-Chairman), D Adams, D Andre, J Bacon, M Beston, P Brading, V Churchman, I Dore, R Downer, W Drew, S Ellis, P Fuller, A Garratt, S Hastings, S Hendry, C Jarman, J Jones-Evans, P Jordan, J Lever, M Lilley, K Love, K Lucioni, J Medland, C Mosdell, J Nicholson, M Oliver, T Outlaw, L Peacey-Wilcox, D Pitcher, M Price, R Quigley, C Quirk, R Redrup, J Robertson, P Spink, I Stephens and I Ward |
| Apologies       | Cllr G Peace   |

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33. **Minutes**

RESOLVED:

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2021 be confirmed.

34. **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations were received at this stage.

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

Mr Christopher Wakeley of Newport submitted a written question regarding carbon emissions, and whether the Council was prepared to introduce an interim carbon reduction target for the Island by 2030. The Cabinet Member for Environment, Heritage and Waste Management provided a written response (PQ 44/21).

Mr Steven Parks of Shanklin asked an oral question relating to the plans for the redevelopment of Sandown and the Bay area, particularly with regards to transport, travel and access. The Cabinet Member for Environment, Heritage and Waste Management advised that previous proposals had not been rejected but were being reconsidered to ensure the future of the area was viable. A supplementary question was asked regarding how these plans were being moved forward. The Cabinet Member advised that viable plans would be put forward as soon as possible.

Mr Michael Smith of Newport asked an oral question relating to Island Roads and whether the Council could ensure they notify local residents of last-minute works. The Cabinet Member for Highways PFI, Transport and Infrastructure advised that a written response would be provided.

**36. Chairman's Official Announcements**

The Chairman's report had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. Attention was drawn to the recent murder of Sir David Amess MP which highlighted the risks to all democratically-elected representatives. It was advised that information from the Monitoring Officer related to this matter would be circulated to all councillors in due course.

RESOLVED:

THAT the Chairman's official announcements be noted.

**37. Leaders Update Report (20 minutes)**

The Leader presented the report which highlighted key activities since the last meeting. Reference was made to a number of recent Remembrance Day events and attention was drawn to the upcoming Stand with Midwives Campaign.

A question was asked in relation to the steps being taken to ensure the Leader has capacity to circulate key documents such as the response from the Minister of State for Housing regarding issues around the number of homes that the government requires in the new Island Planning Strategy.

Concerns were raised in relation to the communications on the roll-out of the booster vaccination programme and it was confirmed that this matter was being raised through the Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Health and Social Care.

Comments were made in relation to various areas including support for carers, the approach to addressing the climate emergency, the Green Meadows care facility, and the development of the Island Plan. Discussion took place regarding the £5.8m funding secured for the regeneration of East Cowes and the Director of Regeneration and his team were thanked for developing the business case.

RESOLVED:

THAT the Leaders update be noted.

**38. Report of the Leader**

**38a Isle of Wight Council Corporate Plan**

The Leader presented the report which set out the vision and aspirations of the Council's administration in its revised corporate plan. Cllr Andrew Garratt presented an amendment, as set out in Appendix 2 to the report, which was duly seconded and accepted.

Following debate, a vote was taken and it was:

RESOLVED:

THAT the Corporate Plan as set out in Appendix 1 incorporating the revisions tabled in Appendix 2 be approved and adopted.

### **38b Report on the use of Special Urgency Provisions**

The Monitoring Officer presented the report which informed the Council of the details of each executive decision taken where the making of the decision was agreed as urgent, in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Local Authorities Executive Arrangements (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

A vote was taken and it was:

RESOLVED:

THAT the statutory report on the use of Special Urgency Provisions be received and noted.

## **39. Reports of the Monitoring Officer**

### **39a Report on Pension Board Appointments**

The Monitoring Officer presented the report which sought approval of the revised terms of reference for the Local Pension Board, and for appointments to be formally made to it. The chairman sought clarification from the Monitoring Officer regarding whether councillors should declare an interest in this item (as members of the local government pension scheme). It was confirmed that this was not required given the nature of the report and as there was an obligation on councillors to establish the Board.

A vote was taken and it was:

RESOLVED:

- i) THAT the revised terms of reference of the Local Pension Board, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.
- ii) THAT the appointments to the Local Pension Board, as set out in Appendix 2 of the report, be approved.

### **39b Nominations and Appointment to Committees**

The Monitoring Officer presented the report which was required to give effect to the wishes of the Leader of the Alliance Group as to the nominations for appointments to the Planning Committee. Cllr Karen Lucioni was nominated by the Alliance Group to fill the vacant vice-chairman seat on the Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Children's Services, Education and Skills. No further nominations were received.

A vote was taken and it was:

RESOLVED:

- i) THAT Cllr Karen Lucioni be appointed to the Planning Committee.
- ii) THAT Cllrs Rodney Downer and Debbie Andre of the Alliance Group be appointed to the Planning Committee as substitute members.

- iii) THAT Cllr Karen Lucioni be appointed as vice-chairman to the Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Children’s Services, Education and Skills.

The meeting was adjourned for a five-minute comfort break, during which the Leader left the meeting unwell. The Deputy Leader took her place.

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

40a **By Councillor Spink**

Cllr Peter Spink moved the following amended motion which was duly seconded:

Council notes:

1. Because it does not have an up to date five-year land supply and has failed to meet Government housing “targets”, planning decisions are subject to paragraph 11.d) i. and ii. of the National Planning Policy Framework, often referred to as the ‘tilted balance’. The application of the tilted balance limits the circumstances in which the Council is able to refuse planning applications.
2. The continued application of the tilted balance is likely to result in the loss of precious greenfield sites on the Isle of Wight. The protection of greenfield was raised as a major concern by Island residents in the consultation period of the previous draft planning strategy and is important to tourism and to our status as a biosphere.
3. The Government has recently indicated a change in the direction of national planning policy. The precise detail has yet to be clarified but is likely to include greater protection of greenfield, with brownfield being the preferred choice for the majority of development.

I ask, therefore, if Council will Support the following motion:

The Leader of the Isle of Wight Council shall write to the Prime Minister and to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, requesting the suspension of the application of the ‘titled balance’ (Paragraph 11.d) i. and ii. National Planning Policy Framework) to planning decisions made by the Isle of Wight Planning Authority.

Cllr Paul Fuller moved the following amendment (including an addition by the Chairman) to the motion which was duly seconded:

Council notes:

1. Because it does not have an up to date five year land supply and has failed to meet Government housing “targets”, planning decisions are subject to paragraph 11.d) i. and ii. of the National Planning Policy Framework, often referred to as the ‘tilted balance’. The application of the tilted balance limits the circumstances in which the Council is able to refuse planning applications.
2. The continued application of the tilted balance is likely to result in the loss of precious greenfield sites on the Isle of Wight. The protection of greenfield was raised as a major concern by Island residents in the

consultation period of the previous draft planning strategy and is important to tourism and to our status as a biosphere.

3. The Government has recently indicated a change in the direction of national planning policy. The precise detail has yet to be clarified but is likely to include greater protection of greenfield, with brownfield being the preferred choice for the majority of development.

Council notes that in light of this, the Leader of the Isle of Wight Council has agreed to write to the Prime Minister and to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, requesting the suspension of the application of the 'titled balance' (Paragraph 11.d) i. and ii. National Planning Policy Framework) to planning decisions made by the Isle of Wight Planning Authority.

Further, Council notes that the Leader will write to other Local Authorities in a similar general position to the Isle of Wight Council if a negative reply has been received, asking those Authorities to sign a joint letter to request that the application of the 'tilted balance' be suspended indefinitely so as to protect greenfield sites and make brownfield sites the preferred choice for the majority of development.

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

For: (27)

Cllrs David Adams, Debbie Andre, Rodney Downer, Paul Fuller, Chris Jarman, Michael Lilley, Karen Lucioni, John Medland, Darryl Pitcher, Michael Beston, Paul Brading, Vanessa Churchman, Warren Drew, Suzie Ellis, Steve Hastings, Steven Hendry, Clare Mosdell, John Nicholson, Martin Oliver, Tig Outlaw, Matthew Price, Chris Quirk, Ray Redrup, Joe Robertson, Peter Spink, Ian Ward, Clare Critchison

Against: (4)

Cllrs Karl Love, Ian Stephens, Richard Quigley, Geoff Brodie

Abstained: (6)

Cllrs Jonathan Bacon, Ian Dore, Julie Jones-Evans, Phil Jordan, Joe Lever, Andrew Garratt

RESOLVED:

THAT Council notes:

1. Because it does not have an up to date five year land supply and has failed to meet Government housing "targets", planning decisions are subject to paragraph 11.d) i. and ii. of the National Planning Policy Framework, often referred to as the 'tilted balance'. The application of the tilted balance limits the circumstances in which the Council is able to refuse planning applications.
2. The continued application of the tilted balance is likely to result in the loss of precious greenfield sites on the Isle of Wight. The protection of greenfield was raised as a major concern by Island residents in the consultation period of the previous draft planning strategy and is important to tourism and to our status as a biosphere.
3. The Government has recently indicated a change in the direction of national planning policy. The precise detail has yet to be clarified but is likely to

include greater protection of greenfield, with brownfield being the preferred choice for the majority of development.

Council notes that in light of this, the Leader of the Isle of Wight Council has agreed to write to the Prime Minister and to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, requesting the suspension of the application of the 'titled balance' (Paragraph 11.d) i. and ii. National Planning Policy Framework) to planning decisions made by the Isle of Wight Planning Authority.

Further, Council notes that the Leader will write to other Local Authorities in a similar general position to the Isle of Wight Council if a negative reply has been received, asking those Authorities to sign a joint letter to request that the application of the 'tilted balance' be suspended indefinitely so as to protect greenfield sites and make brownfield sites the preferred choice for the majority of development.

**40b By Councillor Brading**

Due to time constraints this item was not considered and was deferred to the next meeting.

**40c By Councillor Pitcher**

Due to time constraints this item was not considered and was deferred to the next meeting.

**40d By Councillor Quirk**

Due to time constraints this item was not considered and was deferred to the next meeting.

**41. Members Question Time (30 minutes)**

Cllr Peter Spink submitted a written question in relation to motorcycle racing on the Island (particularly in the West Wight) and whether this was consistent with the Council's Climate Policy, the Islands designation as a UNESCO Biosphere, and eco-tourism. The Leader provided a written response. (MQ 15/21)

Cllr Ian Ward asked an oral question in relation to the regeneration plans for Sandown and the Bay area. The Deputy Leader provided assurance that the council were open to working on this matter in a cohesive way with local councillors.

Cllr Richard Quigley asked an oral question in relation to the development of affordable housing and responsible landlords. The Deputy Leader confirmed that the areas highlighted would be considered. The Chairman asked that he provide a written reply, with a copy to all councillors.

Cllr Michael Lilley asked an oral question in relation to the progress with the use of the Additional Restrictions Grant. The Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Business Development and Tourism outlined the various business support activities underway for the use of these funds.

Cllr Joe Lever asked an oral question in relation to carbon targets and community engagement. The Cabinet Member for Environment, Heritage and Waste

Management advised that a report on the matter was being developed for consideration in February 2022 and confirmed that a written response would be provided.

Cllr Clare Mosdell asked an oral question in relation to the inclusion of local ward members when visiting sites in the community. The Deputy Leader confirmed that ward members would be notified where possible.

Cllr Steve Hastings asked an oral question in relation to the progress with the Waste Plant. The Cabinet Member for Environment, Heritage and Waste Management advised that the project had been delayed and it was confirmed that a full written response would be provided.

Cllr Karl Love asked an oral question in relation to highways disruptions caused by Wightfibre. The Cabinet Member for Highways PFI, Transport and Infrastructure confirmed that the highways network was managed by Island Roads, who work in conjunction with utility companies to plan works.

Cllr John Nicholson asked that the Council acknowledges the south coast of the Island as having ties to the Spanish armada. The Deputy Leader confirmed that the comments had been taken on board.

Cllr Joe Robertson asked an oral question in relation to the lack of email correspondence from the Leader regarding the Ryde Interchange project. The Deputy Leader advised that it was not appropriate to comment on the Leader's workload.

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 17 November 2021**

**Written question from Mr Christopher Wakeley**

In view of the UN having said we need to cut CO2 emissions by 50% by 2030 to avoid the worst effects of climate change and to give Islanders a less distant target, is IW Council prepared to introduce an interim carbon reduction target 2030 for the Island in general please?

## ***Response***

The [Climate and Environment Strategy and Action Plan](#) sets out the phases Aims to achieve net-carbon zero:

- As a council in our service delivery by 2030
- Across our schools estate by 2035; and
- As a whole island community by 2040, with no more than 15% offset taking place on privately-owned land and in the marine environment

The pathway to net zero for our island must focus primarily on emissions reductions, with only a small amount of offsetting taking place where strictly necessary. While the council can control its own operations and is likely to be able to meet net zero by 2030, this accounts for a tiny fraction (less than 1%) of the Island's overall emissions. Widespread behaviour change will be necessary across the Isle of Wight, with major changes to energy use and production, housing, and transport and its supporting infrastructure, for the entire area to meet a net zero emissions target. The council must focus on meeting its own net zero target to lead the way for the rest of the Island.

A key piece of work in developing the [Climate and Environment Strategy and Action Plan](#) was commissioning a pathway to net-zero study using scientific research and carbon modelling of the Islands emissions. This study demonstrated the challenge ahead of us and made clear that different target dates would allow the Island greater flexibility and achievability in meeting its goals. It is apparent from the scale of change required across the island, including wide scale adaptations to homes, infrastructure, transport, and the environment, that this is unlikely to be achievable before 2040.

The council has stated that the strategy is not a single use document, the strategy and action plan are live and will be regularly reviewed and updated to reflect changes in national and local funding and policy. As part of the regular reviews the team will seek to build in interim milestones for carbon reduction along the longer pathway for the Island as a whole to meet net-carbon zero 2040.

The [Climate and Environment Strategy and Action Plan](#) sets out the reasoning and scientific studies that support the phased approach to achieving net-zero. The Environment and Sustainability monthly forum operated by the Climate Change team regularly discusses these issues and invite experts from across the country to present research, ideas and projects, this is an open public forum you are welcome to join. If you have further questions or would like to attend the Environment and Sustainability Forum please contact the Climate and Environment Team at the council by emailing [sustainability@iow.gov.uk](mailto:sustainability@iow.gov.uk).

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## 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

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**Full Council - Wednesday, 17 November 2021****Written question from Cllr Peter Spink to the Leader, Isle of Wight Council**

Does the Leader of the Isle of Wight Council consider that motor cycle racing/time trials on the Island, and in particular in the West Wight, is consistent with:

- i) the Council's Climate Policy,
- ii) the Islands designation as a UNESCO Biosphere.
- iii) Eco tourism (which provides substantial income to Island businesses).

## ***Response***

The Council, through its Cabinet is under an obligation to determine an application for a motor cycle race through a statutory process which sets out the matters it must take account of when making a decision of whether to allow an event of this nature to take place.

On this basis, and having taken advice, it would not be appropriate for any Cabinet member to express a view until such time as an application is formally placed before the Cabinet and all of the relevant information is available on which to base a decision.

To do otherwise before all the details of the application have been received and formally considered, together with the allied information and results of a further public consultation that we understand will be necessary, could be deemed to be pre-determining the application. As a member of the Cabinet, I am therefore unable to respond to the questions as posed by Councillor Spink at this moment in time.

To clarify matters for the public, it should be stated that, in light of the advice that we have received, it was plainly inappropriate for the previous Council Leader and the then Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Transport to have stated that they and other then Cabinet Members supported the proposal when it was made by the organisers last year. This may have comprised any formal decision that might have been subsequently required from them had an application come before them.

Therefore, it would not be appropriate for Cabinet members to comment at this time, so as not to prejudice the decision-making process.

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