



Record of decision

THE FOLLOWING DECISIONS WERE TAKEN ON THURSDAY, 11TH NOVEMBER, 2021 BY THE CABINET

THE CALL IN PERIOD FOR THESE DECISIONS EXPIRES AT 5.00 PM ON MONDAY, 22 NOVEMBER 2021

Members of the Cabinet who were present

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

Members also present(non-voting)
Cllrs G Brodie, S Hastings and C Quirk

Officers Present

John Metcalfe, Christopher Ashman and Laura Gaudion

Confirmed as a true record of decisions taken

Leader of the Council

Agenda item	Minutes
Decision reference	57 – 2021/22
Decision Taken	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That the minutes of the meeting held on 25 October 2021 be agreed.

Agenda item	Declarations of Interest
Decision reference	58 – 2021/22
Decision Taken	There were no Declarations of Interest.

Agenda item	Public Question Time - Maximum 15 Minutes for Written Questions and 15 Minutes for Oral Questions
Decision reference	59 – 2021/22

Decision Taken	A written question was submitted by Mr P Coueslant (PQ 43-21) relating to the council's site at Pier Street, Sandown. The Leader provided a response.
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Agenda item	Chairman's Announcements
Decision reference	60 – 2021/22
Summary of Discussion	<p>The Chairman had attended the opening of the Green Meadows extra care facility in Freshwater, with Cllr Jarman and Cllr Love. Up to 75 residents could be accommodated, freeing up other homes for island families.</p> <p>The Chairman had also attended a Remembrance Service at Carisbrooke Castle to lay a cross and was pleased to see so many island school children and cadets present.</p> <p>The Chairman congratulated the Regeneration team on the £5.8 million received from the levelling up fund for East Cowes. Cllr Love also thanked all involved. The final details were still to be defined but it would be a good opportunity to move forward in partnership with businesses. He had attended the ceremony for the Queens Award for Industry along with the Chairman and felt that this had put the island on the map as an employer for future investment.</p>

Agenda item	Quarterly Performance Monitoring Report - Q2
Decision reference	61 – 2021/22
Summary of Discussion	<p>Cllr Brodie stated that he did not believe that adequate resources had been allocated to the scrutiny process within the council, and was keen to ensure that the Cabinet would allocate more resources to it in the next budget. In response, Cllr Bacon explained that in some areas of the QPMR the measures were quite limited but that the new Corporate Plan, if approved by Full Council, would extend the measures which would provide more information for councillors and the public. It was felt that the increased number of items on the Forward Plan for decision would result in increased demand for scrutiny and the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee were invited to make any suggestions as to how they felt scrutiny could be improved. Whilst agreeing that support for scrutiny was under resourced, the importance of documents being received in good time was stressed, as</p>

	<p>this would allow enough time for questions to be asked and answers provided by officers in a timely manner.</p> <p>The Chairman agreed that the resourcing of scrutiny would be looked into as part of the budget process.</p> <p>Clarification on some of the measures had been provided to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee in response to queries raised.</p>
Decision Taken	Option 2: Cabinet approves the Performance and Finance Report – Quarter ended 30 September 2021 and the priority report detail as set out in appendices 1-9, together with the council’s financial position as set out at 10 and 11.
Reason for the decision and corporate objective it aligns with	Ongoing management and monitoring of performance data, the council’s strategic risk profile and financial situation is required to support the successful delivery of council priorities. As such, this report provides the Cabinet (and subsequently the council’s scrutiny function) with the necessary information to record achievements, challenge areas of underperformance and to account for it to the wider community.
Options considered and rejected	Option 1: Cabinet does not approve the Performance and Finance Report – Quarter ended 30 September 2021 and the priority report detail as set out in appendices 1-9, together with the council’s financial position as set out at 10-11.

Agenda item	Holiday Activity and Food Programme – Christmas Grants
Decision reference	62 – 2021/22
Summary of Discussion	The first line of Appendix 1 (page 87) should have read ‘winter’ rather than ‘summer’ provision. There was an amount of £21,210 to be allocated to four providers in the Christmas school holidays for approximately 700 children. It was uncertain for how long the funding would continue, but it was being very well spent. The Corporate Scrutiny Committee had supported the recommendation.
Decision Taken	<p>It is recommended that Cabinet approves the award of grants to the organisations identified in Appendix 1 to this report to a total value of £21,210.</p> <p>In the event that a provider is unable to fulfil the funded number of places or has to amend its offer in the light of Covid, it is recommended that the Cabinet Member</p>

	delegates approval to the Director of Children’s Services to reallocate any underspent Winter HAF grant funding to ensure an Isle of Wight wide offer, within the grant allocation for Winter of £61,150. Any such reallocations will be determined in consultation with the Cabinet Member.
Reason for the decision and corporate objective it aligns with	<p>The desired outcomes of the programme are to encourage children and young people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To eat more healthily over the school holidays. • To be more active during the school holidays. • To take part in engaging and enriching activities which support the development of resilience, character and well being along with their wider education attainment. • To be safe and not to be socially isolated. • To have greater knowledge of health nutrition. • To be more engaged with school and other local services.
Options considered and rejected	None

Agenda item	Pop-up enterprises on Council land
Decision reference	63 – 2021-22
Summary of Discussion	<p>The Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Business Development and Tourism explained that this was something that had been done successfully in Cornwall. It was for temporary businesses such as cycle hire, fitness classes, food stalls and would hopefully encourage businesses to come forward, particularly those starting up including sole trader wishing to show their entrepreneurial skills. It would also generate revenue for the council and would enrich the tourism and community offer. It was hoped to start marketing a pilot scheme in January 2022 for the coming season.</p> <p>In response to a point raised by Corporate Scrutiny in supporting the initiative, it was confirmed that consultation would be held with Town and Parish Councils before deciding on the pilot sites.</p>
Decision Taken	Option A. To market a small number of IWC sites for “pop up” business for 2022 as a pilot scheme to inform a more comprehensive business case for the wider council

	portfolio in 2023. The details of the pilot sites to be offered to be agreed by the Cabinet member for Regeneration, Business Development and Tourism.
Reason for the decision and corporate objective it aligns with	The new Corporate Plan 2021-25 contains the following relevant objectives: 9. Keep the Council solvent and take all the measures we can to improve the financial position of the council. Activity - Refresh the council's commercial strategy and approach towards securing investment and income generation opportunities by March 2022.
Options considered and rejected	Option B - Not to undertake the pilot scheme.

Agenda item	Review of options to identify investment proposals for regeneration of Culver Parade tourism opportunity area
Decision reference	64 – 2021/22
Summary of Discussion	It was agreed that the world class collection should be preserved and presented in the best way possible, and that everything should be done to support the collection and maximise its potential. The council would continue to look for opportunities for an adequate home for the collection. Thanks were expressed to the staff at Dinosaur Isle for their continued work in what had been an uncertain time.
Decision Taken	Option A - to (i) seek to secure an effective and sustainable long term solution to the future of the dinosaur museum (including the collection and Museum Accreditation) either at the current or any alternative site. (ii) To develop an alternative regeneration proposition of the council owned land at Culver Parade which reflects its environment and supports the Island Biosphere designation. (iii) Pursue an alternative site (either council or third party owned) for the development of a new dinosaur themed visitor attraction, and iv) to undertake full consultation with all relevant local and industry stakeholders in relation to any plans that come forward.
Reason for the decision and corporate objective it aligns with	On 25 October 2021 Cabinet recommended the new Corporate Plan for approval by Full Council in November and it sets out the objectives for the council over the next four years. Of relevance to this paper the plan states the council will:

	<p>Secure the future of the Island's geological collection by working with regeneration and investment partners.</p> <p>Act to maintain the accreditation status of the collection at all times and work with relevant bodies to enhance its display wherever possible.</p>
Options considered and rejected	Option B - to take no further action and continue to run and manage the existing Dinosaur Isle facility.

Agenda item	Cabinet Member Announcements
Decision reference	65 – 2021/22
Summary of Discussion	<p>The Cabinet Member for Planning and Community Engagement reported that a letter had been received from the Minister for Housing concerning exceptional circumstances for the island. indicating that local and neighbourhood plans are fundamental for the Planning Department and its Committee's decisions. It would be for the Planning Inspector to examine any local plan provided and consider whether the evidence provided by the IWC and decide whether these factors amount to constraints which would prevent the IW from meeting its housing needs. Evidence would be the key factor and would need to be robust and defensible.</p> <p>The government had instructed 668 homes to be built on the Island but the council was trying to suppress this to 484 homes.</p> <p>In response to a query from Cllr Brodie, the Leader agreed to share the letter sent to the DLUHC with councillors.</p> <p>The Planning Inspector had upheld a decision of the Planning Committee to refuse permission for an application at Ventnor Road, Apse Heath.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Business Development and Tourism reported that local input was being sought in shaping the final plans for use of the £5.8 million from the levelling up fund for East Cowes.</p> <p>The D-Bid had been voted in for the second five-year period. Visit Isle of Wight had a good business plan in place.</p>

A meeting had been held with the Arts Council to discuss cultural regeneration, which was one of the cornerstones of the new Corporate Plan.

The Southampton City of Culture bid was through to the next round.

The Cabinet Member for Highways PFI, Transport and Infrastructure reported that the Floating Bridge was expected to return to service on 13 December after final repairs and testing, crew refresher training and an inspection by the MCA.

The cost of the failures of the Floating Bridge were not to hand, but the council was entering into mediation for the cost and loss of revenue. It was hoped that the current modifications would reduce the level of failure going forward. A report would be brought to Cabinet in January 2022.

In response to a question from Cllr Brodie regarding the lack of notice to Newport and Carisbrooke Community Council regarding Coppins Bridge signal works, the Cabinet member explained that the Contract Management Team resources were stretched, meaning works were sometimes delayed or implemented at short notice, but gave reassurance that consultation would be carried out in future.

The Leader left the meeting at 6pm for a prior appointment and the Deputy Leader took the Chair.

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health reported that there were difficulties currently in recruiting to the care sector resulting in a shortage of staff on the island. The council was juggling staff to maintain a safe standard. Teams had gone to extra effort after hours. The Integrated Care systems should be moving forward in the new year.

The Deputy Leader reported that homelessness was rising on the island, due in part to problems in the rental market and the removal of the universal Credit uplift. The council was to pursue the rental provider avenue and would be moving forward in partnership with housing associations with the aim of providing affordable accommodation, which other members were pleased to hear. It was recognised that what may be affordable on the island was not necessarily the same as in other parts of the South of England. The Island Planning Strategy was hoping to

	<p>address this issue and it would be important for the Planning Inspector to properly scrutinise the plan and recognise the island's special circumstances. It was believed that more 1-2 bedroom properties were required for island residents in addition to the 3-4 bedroom properties which had been built in recent years.</p> <p>The had been some recent problems with the council's website which were being addressed.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Lifelong Skills reported that Ofsted inspections had resumed since being suspended during the pandemic, and that there had been a recent focused visit to the Child Protection Service which had been favourable. There had been some good work done in schools but it had been difficult to evidence improvement. Christ the King College had been given an overall rating which was an improvement from the previous inspection. Broadlea Primary School had also been given an improved rating. 75% of schools had been rated 'good' which was an increase from previous years.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Environment, Heritage and Waste Management reported that there had been support from Island Roads for the 'Dark Skies' application, which would bring important benefits for wildlife and tourism. A report would be brought to Cabinet on 16 December. The 'Biosphere in the Bay' project, which had launched in 2020 was being reinstated via the AONB and would seek grant funding to improve the biosphere and heritage in the Bay area.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance, Corporate Resources and Transformational Change reported that the Cabinet was working towards a balanced budget, and they members were open to ideas from any Councillor.</p>
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Agenda item	Consideration of the Forward Plan
Decision reference	66 – 2021/22
Summary of Discussion	The many items on the Forward Plan were noted, and it was requested that the relevant Cabinet Member be included in the list in future.

Agenda item	Members' Question Time
Decision reference	67 – 2021/22
Summary of Discussion	A query was raised as to whether the question asked by the Shanklin Hoteliers at the Corporate Scrutiny Committee had been answered. The Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Business Development and Tourism indicated that a response had been prepared and would be sent.