



# Minutes

Name of meeting	<b>CABINET</b>
Date and Time	<b>THURSDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2021 COMMENCING AT 5.00 PM</b>
Venue	<b>COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT</b>
Present	Cllrs L Peacey-Wilcox (Chairman), D Andre, J Bacon, P Fuller, C Jarman, J Jones-Evans, P Jordan, K Love and I Stephens
Also Present (Non voting)	Cllrs G Brodie, S Hastings and C Quirk
Officers Present	John Metcalfe, Christopher Ashman and Laura Gaudion

57. **Minutes**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 25 October 2021 be agreed.

58. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

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

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.

60. **Chairman's Announcements**

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.

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.

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.

**61. Report of the Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance, Corporate Resources and Transformational Change**

**61a Quarterly Performance Monitoring Report - Q2**

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 more resources into 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 this would allow enough time for questions to be asked and answers provided by officers in a timely manner.

The Chairman agreed that the resourcing of scrutiny would be looked into as part of the budget process.

Clarification on some of the measures had been provided to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee in response to queries raised.

**62. Report of the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Lifelong Skills**

**62a Holiday Activity and Food Programme – Christmas Grants**

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.

**63. Report of the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Business Development and Tourism**

**63a Pop-up enterprises on Council land**

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.

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.

**64. Report of the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Business Development and Tourism and the Cabinet Member for Environment, Heritage and Waste**

**64a Review of options to identify investment proposals for regeneration of Culver Parade tourism opportunity area**

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.

**65. Cabinet Member Announcements**

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.

The government had instructed 668 homes to be built on the Island but the council was trying to suppress this to 484 homes.

In response to a query from Cllr Brodie, the Leader agreed to share the letter sent to the DLUHC with councillors.

The Planning Inspector had upheld a decision of the Planning Committee to refuse permission for an application at Ventnor Road, Apse Heath.

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.

The D-Bid had been voted in for the second five-year period. Visit Isle of Wight had a good business plan in place.

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 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.

There had been some recent problems with the council's website which were being addressed.

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.

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.

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.

**66. Consideration of the Forward Plan**

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.

**67. Members' Question Time**

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.

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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**Cabinet – 11 November 21**

**Written question from Mr P Coueslant to the Leader**

‘Please could you explain why there’s a delay in completing the sale of the Council’s Pier Street site in Sandown, and whether the contract of sale requires the buyer to provide public toilets as outlined in the planning application 20/00183/FUL approved in June 2020?’

***Response***

“The marketing of this development opportunity was concluded in early 2021 and the preferred bidder was the developer whose proposal including the re-provision of public conveniences within his scheme. Unfortunately, there have been technical issues relating to conditions within the planning consent and works required to the public realm adjoining the site that the Council needs to resolve before solicitors can proceed with legal documentation. Several departments within the Council are working jointly to bring the matter to a conclusion as swiftly as possible.”

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