



Record of decision

THE FOLLOWING DECISIONS WERE TAKEN ON THURSDAY, 10TH FEBRUARY, 2022 BY THE CABINET

THE CALL IN PERIOD FOR THESE DECISIONS EXPIRES AT 5.00 PM ON MONDAY, 21 FEBRUARY 2022

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 and I Stephens

Members also present(non-voting)

Cllrs G Brodie, S Ellis, S Hastings and P Spink

Officers Present

John Metcalfe, Christopher Ashman, Steve Crocker, Laura Gaudion, Wendy Perera, Christopher Potter, Colin Rowland, Claire Shand, Chris Ward, Brian Pope and Kerry Hubbleday

Apologies for Absence

Cllr K Love

Confirmed as a true record of decisions taken

Leader of the Council

Agenda item	Minutes
Decision reference	104 – 2021/22
Decision Taken	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2022 be approved.

Agenda item	Declarations of Interest
Decision reference	105 – 2021/22
Decision Taken	The Monitoring Officer confirmed that a General Dispensation had been granted on 21 January 2022 for the

	next four years to all councillors that would enable them to discuss and vote on the budget and council tax setting and any other financial matters in which they may have an interest, for example as council tax payers, or subscribers to the green waste or Wightcare services.
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Agenda item	Public Question Time - Maximum 15 Minutes for Written Questions and 15 Minutes for Oral Questions
Decision reference	106 – 2021/22
Decision Taken	<p>No written questions were received.</p> <p>Julia Lowson representing Save Our School group from Chillerton and Rookley Primary School asked what was the council's fear behind consideration of working with the Island Free School building a model of excellence for primary education on the island which would prevent small rural schools being closed.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded and said she had listened to the points raised, the comments of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee and the request to defer the decision. Following discussion she had undertaken more research and made further enquiries and the Cabinet would be asked to defer the decision in order for further options to be explored. She apologised for the ongoing uncertainty, however it was important to take into account any new information and not make a decision until all avenues had been explored.</p>

Agenda item	Chairman's Announcements
Decision reference	107 – 2021/22
Summary of Discussion	<p>The Chairman announced the upcoming departure from the council of the Chief Executive, John Metcalfe after 25 years at the Isle of Wight Council, six of them as Chief Executive, and gave a tribute to him for all his support and for everything he had done for the council and for the island. Detailed announcements as to what would happen would be made in due course. A new clear Corporate Plan was in place setting out the council's aims for the next four years. The council was hoping to create a new approach based on local investment, support for residents and a creative approach to finance and growth. The proposed budget had been largely welcomed at various public</p>

	meetings and at CSC. The recent 'levelling up' settlement from government had still failed to recognise the island as a special case and the costs associated with being separated from the mainland. It offered no meaningful support for local pressures and had been profoundly disappointing.
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Agenda item	Outcome of the Consultation on the Future of Chillerton and Rookley Primary School
Decision reference	108 – 2021/22
Summary of Discussion	The Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Lifelong Skills proposed that a decision on this item be deferred pending further research into all the options.
Decision Taken	To defer the decision pending further research into the options.
Reason for the decision and corporate objective it aligns with	The recommendation in this report directly links to the Corporate Plan 2021-25 priority which is to work with local communities to maintain and ensure appropriate local school provision. In addition to this it supports the commitment that through ongoing business of the council we will work with and challenge schools performance to ensure that all are good or outstanding, and to ensure work is undertaken to challenge schools in financial deficit to secure a more sustainable position for the schools and the council.
Options considered and rejected	<p>To leave both schools open and federated, meaning the status quo remains.</p> <p>The amalgamation of Chillerton and Rookley Primary School with Godshill Primary School to be achieved through the closure of Godshill Primary School.</p> <p>To seek an academy/free school sponsor for Chillerton and Rookley Primary School and, if successful, to defederate the school from the Stenbury Federation.</p> <p>To defederate Chillerton & Rookley from the Stenbury Federation and reform it as a stand-alone primary school.</p> <p>To seek another local maintained school to federate with Chillerton and Rookley Primary School.</p> <p>To set up provision for flexi-schooling on the Chillerton and Rookley site to sit alongside full-time provision.</p>

	To open a new SEND Special School for Primary aged children
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Agenda item	Determining School Admission Arrangements
Decision reference	109 – 2021/22
Summary of Discussion	<p>The School Admissions arrangements for primary, secondary and in-year admissions for 2023/24 were as detailed in the report. There was no change proposed to the arrangements currently in place.</p> <p>It was noted that the Corporate Scrutiny Committee had made no formal comment.</p>
Decision Taken	That Cabinet approves the 2023/2024 admissions arrangements.
Reason for the decision and corporate objective it aligns with	<p>The recommendation in this report directly links to the Corporate Plan 2021-25 priority which is to work with local communities to maintain and ensure appropriate local school provision.</p> <p>The local authority must determine the admission arrangements by 28 February 2022 and ensure they are published before 15 March 2022. The recommended policy will be compliant with the requirements of the School Admission Code 2021.</p>
Options considered and rejected	None.

Agenda item	Quarterly Performance Monitoring Report
Decision reference	110 – 2021/22
Summary of Discussion	<p>It was noted that this was the first Quarterly performance report based on the new Corporate Plan. There was an appendix detailing performance for each portfolio.</p> <p>The revenue budget was broadly on balance, and the capital budget was showing some slippage which would be carried forward into the next year's draft budget.</p> <p>There were a number of new measures for which there was no data yet, but these would be reported at the end of the next quarter.</p>

	<p>Some points were highlighted, which included that there were currently only two known rough sleepers who were receiving support. The council had purchased five flats using S.106 funding to assist with the situation.</p> <p>Funding of just under £1 million had been received from the Brownfield Release fund to help clear up three council-owned brownfield sites for potential housing.</p> <p>£2.5 million had been proposed in the budget to start up a property company to start to provide affordable homes for local residents.</p>
Decision Taken	Option 2: The Cabinet approves the Performance and Finance Report for the Quarter ended 31 December 2021, and the priority report detail as set out in appendices 1-9, together with the council's financial position as set out at appendices 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 31 December 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	Budget and Council Tax Setting 2022-2023 and Future Years Forecasts
Decision reference	111 - 2021/22
Summary of Discussion	The proposed budget had undergone a lot of discussion, including with Town and Parish Councils and other groups and a public consultation exercise. There had been over 1000 responses which had been considered in the final draft. The focus of the budget was to meet the key objectives with three main areas – securing front line adult social care services, children's services and the provision of affordable housing for rent.

	<p>Highlights picked out by councillors included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment plans and a list of regeneration projects with a good record of accessing funding. • Investment of significant sums into education, including a new Yarmouth school in January 2023 and remodelling of The Bay secondary site in October 2022 • Increased support for foster carers and improved housing options for care leavers • The provision of affordable housing and finding ways to fast track housing with the input of local councillors • £750,000 had been put aside for compulsory purchases to be used for island residents. <p>Thanks were expressed to Newport and Carisbrooke Community Council for their work in relation to planning enforcement ideas. Other Town and Parish Councils also wished to follow suit.</p> <p>The Cabinet members were thanked for their work in bringing the draft budget together.</p>
Decision Taken	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cabinet endorses the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The recommendations to the Council set out below. 2. It is recommended that the Council approve the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The revised Revenue Budget for the financial year 2021/22 and the Revenue Budget for the financial year 2022/23 as set out in the General Fund Summary (Appendix 1) which includes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) A Revenue Contribution to Capital of £2.0m, to support the provision of housing affordable to Island residents (ii) The COVID Contingency estimated at £9.1m, to guard against continuing and legacy risks b) Any variation arising from the Local Government Finance Settlement 2022/23 or any further savings made in 2021/22 arising at the year-end (after allowing for specific carry forward requests) be transferred to the Revenue Reserve for Capital, COVID Contingency, Transformation Reserve, and General Reserves with the level of each transfer to

	<p>be determined by the S.151 Officer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">c) That the level of Council Tax be increased by 1.99% for general purposes in accordance with the referendum threshold¹ for 2022/23 announced by Government (as calculated in Appendix 2)d) That the level of Council Tax be increased by a further 1.0% beyond the referendum threshold (as calculated in Appendix 2) to take advantage of the flexibility offered by Government to implement a "Social Care Precept"; and that in accordance with the conditions of that flexibility, the full amount of the associated sum generated of £905,600 is passported direct to Adult Social Caree) That the amounts set out in Appendix 2 be now calculated by the Council for the financial year 2022/23 in accordance with Section 31 and Sections 34 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992f) The S.151 Officer be given delegated authority to implement any variation to the overall level of Council Tax arising from the final notification of the Hampshire Police & Crime Commissioner, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Authority and Parish and Town Council precepts, and amend the calculations set out in Appendix 2 accordinglyg) The savings proposals for each Portfolio amounting, in total, to £3.0m for 2022/23 and continuing into future years as set out on the next page:
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¹ Council Tax increases beyond the referendum threshold can only be implemented following a "Yes" vote in a local referendum

Portfolio	Controllable Budget	Savings Proposal	
	£	£	%
Adult Social Care & Public Health*	52,585,029	1,730,900	3.3%
Children's Services, Education & Lifelong Skills*	26,518,026	375,900	1.4%
Community Protection, Digital Transformation, Housing Provision & Housing Needs	13,007,237	182,000	1.4%
Environment, Heritage & Waste Management	8,087,817	304,500	3.8%
Highways PFI, Transport & Infrastructure**	12,255,527	50,900	0.4%
Leader & Strategic Partnerships	806,763	0	0.0%
Planning & Community Engagement	2,061,733	11,000	0.5%
Regeneration, Business Development & Tourism	4,787,226	234,300	4.9%
Strategic Finance, Corporate Resources & Transformational Change	12,726,167	110,500	0.9%
Grand Total	132,835,525	3,000,000	2.3%

*Excludes the additional funding passported through to Adult Social Care of £3.7m (which if included would result in an overall increase of 3.7%) and the additional funding for Children's Services, Education & Skills of £2.3m (which if included would result in an overall increase of 7.3%)

** Excludes £19.4m of PFI grant funding, on a Gross expenditure basis the savings amounts to 0.2%

- h) Directors be instructed to start planning how the Council will achieve the savings requirements of £6.0m for the 3 year period 2023/24 to 2025/26 and that this be incorporated into Service Business Plans
- i) The minimum level of Revenue Balances as at 31 March 2023, predicated on the approval of £3.0m savings in 2022/23 and the retention of the COVID Contingency of £9.1m, be set at £7.0m to reflect the known and expected budget and financial risks to the Council
- j) Members have regard for the "Statement of the Section 151 Officer in accordance with the Local Government Act 2003"
- k) The Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2026/27 set out in Appendix 5 which includes all additions, deletions and amendments for slippage and re-phasing
- l) The new Capital Investment Proposals ("New Starts") - 2022/23 set out in Appendix 4 be reflected within the recommended Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2026/27 and be funded from the available Capital Resources
- m) The allocation of Disabled Facilities Grants be made to the Better Care Fund, and reflected within the recommended Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2026/27
- n) The S.151 Officer be given delegated authority to determine how each source of finance is used to fund the overall Capital Programme and to alter the overall mix of financing, as necessary, to maximise the flexibility of capital resources used and minimise the ongoing costs of borrowing to the Council
- o) That the S.151 Officer in consultation with the Leader of the Council be given delegated authority to release capital resources held back for any contingent items that might arise, and also for any match funding requirements that may be required of the Council in order to secure additional external capital funding (e.g. bids for funding from Government or the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership)

3. It is recommended that the Council note the following in respect of the Council's Budget:

- a) The Revenue Budget 2022/23 as set out in Appendix 1 has been prepared on the basis of a 2.99% increase in Council Tax, any reduction from the overall 2.99% Council Tax increase proposed will require additional savings of £905,600 for each 1% reduction in order for the Budget 2022/23 to be approved
- b) The Revenue Forecasts for 2023/24 onwards as set out in the section entitled "Revenue Forecasts 2023/24 to 2025/26" and Appendix 1.
- c) The estimated Savings Requirement of £6.0m for the three-year period 2023/24 to 2025/26, for financial and service planning purposes, be phased as follows:

Financial Year	In Year Savings Requirement £m	Cumulative Saving £m
2023/24	2.0	2.0
2024/25	2.0	4.0
2025/26	2.0	6.0

- d) The Transformation Reserve held to fund the upfront costs associated with Spend to Save Schemes and Invest to Save Schemes holds a very modest uncommitted balance of £4.4m and will only be replenished from contributions from the Revenue Budget and an approval to the transfer of any further savings at year end
- e) Should the Council elect to reduce the level of savings below £2.0m in 2023/24 (and £2.0m p.a. thereafter), the Council's financial risk will increase and therefore the minimum level of General Reserves held will also need to increase in order to maintain the Council's financial resilience
- f) The Council Tax base for the financial year 2022/23 will be 53,879.9 [item T in the formula in Section 31 B(1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")].
- g) The Council Tax element of the Collection Fund for 2021/22 is estimated to be in surplus by £582,900 which is shared between the Isle of Wight Council

	<p>(85.7%) and the Police & Crime Commissioner (10.9%) and the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Authority (3.4%)</p> <p>h) The Business Rate element of the Collection Fund for 2021/22 is estimated to be in deficit by £6,842,482</p> <p>i) The Retained Business Rate income² for 2022/23 based on the estimated Business Rate element of the Collection Fund deficit as at March 2022, the Non Domestic Rates poundage for 2022/23 and estimated rateable values for 2022/23 has been set at £31,140,075.</p>
Reason for the decision and corporate objective it aligns with	The Council's Budget for 2021/22 and 2022/23, the level of Council Tax and the Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2026/27 represent the Council's detailed plan for 2022/23 and set the direction for the medium term. They are set within the context of the Council's approved Corporate Plan and Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).
Options considered and rejected	None.

Agenda item	Cabinet Member Announcements
Decision reference	112 – 2021/22
Summary of Discussion	<p>The Cabinet Member for Planning and Community Engagement reported that the Draft Island Planning Strategy was to be completed in March and it was hoped to hold members' briefing sessions. The views of the Queen's Counsel would be taken into consideration. The decision would be made by Full Council in April.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Highways PFI, Transport and Infrastructure reminded councillors that events celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee would be taking place later in the year and that consideration was being given to the council obtaining a one-off Traffic Regulation order so that residents could apply to the council for street closures.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Digital Transformation, Housing Provision and Housing Needs reported that of the 2357 people on the housing register,</p>

² Includes Retained Business Rates of £16,196,499, "Top Up" of £11,695,357, S.31 Grants of £10,090,701 a Collection Fund deficit of £6,842,482

approximately 200 were in temporary accommodation and these were the most desperate for housing. Access to funding was greatly needed.

The Coroner's Service was due to be moved to a different location and a better environment.

Regulatory Services staff were currently under pressure due to COVID.

The Cabinet Member for Environment, Heritage and Waste Management reported that work was ongoing for a new Mission Zero hub and an announcement would be made in the next 4-6 weeks.

Progress had been made with the national coastal path. Some work had been completed and there was further work in other areas to start in April.

The Environment Agency were to announce flood protection works on the island, with £60 million of investment. The council would be contributing a small amount. Approximately 5000 homes would be protected following the works.

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills reported that the Isle of Wight had been selected as one of the government's 55 Education Investment Areas. The additional funding would help recruit and retain high quality teaching staff.

It was currently Children's Mental Health Week. Cllr Lilley had been working to set up a consortium between the Youth trust, Barnardos and the NHS to provide mental health champions in all schools.

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Business Development and Tourism reported that she had attended a meeting with the Chief Executive of the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership regarding freeport status, and he would be visiting the island shortly for further discussions.

A further Arts Council grant had been received to help the Island Collection – the cultural industry and strategy.

The deadline for applications for the Omicron grant for the hospitality industry was fast approaching.

Discussions had been held with Town and Parish Councils regarding sites for pop-up businesses, the Tour of Britain

	preparations were under way and the Southampton City of Culture bid had been submitted which would benefit the island.
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Agenda item	Consideration of the Forward Plan
Decision reference	113 – 2021/22
Summary of Discussion	Consideration was given to the Forward Plan, and there were no matters to be added or removed.

Agenda item	Members' Question Time
Decision reference	114 – 2021/22
Summary of Discussion	<p>Cllr Spink had submitted some written questions relating to the Draft Island Planning Strategy (MQ – 04/22) which were read out by the Leader. Written responses had been prepared which were also read out and a copy supplied to Cllr Spink, who asked two supplementary questions as follows:</p> <p>Would the Leader press the government for a reply to two letters which had been sent to them regarding a 'tilted balance' as this had an effect on a motion which had been passed at Full Council which could not take effect until replies to the letters were received. The Leader agreed to pursue this.</p> <p>Would the Leader consider publishing the Draft Island Planning Strategy a minimum of 10 working days before the Corporate Scrutiny meeting on 12 April, as he did not feel that 5 working days was long enough for the Committee to properly scrutinise what would probably be a very lengthy document.</p> <p>The Leader indicated that she would enquire whether this was possible.</p>