



# Minutes

Name of meeting	<b>CABINET</b>
Date and Time	<b>THURSDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2022 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 and I Stephens
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 Huddleday
Apologies	Cllr K Love

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93. **Minutes**

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2022 be approved.

94. **Declarations of Interest**

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.

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

No written questions were received.

Julia Lawson 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.

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.

**96. Chairman's Announcements**

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 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.

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

**97a Outcome of the Consultation on the Future of Chillerton and Rookley Primary School**

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.

**97b Determining School Admission Arrangements**

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.

It was noted that the Corporate Scrutiny Committee had made no formal comment.

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

**98a Quarterly Performance Monitoring Report**

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

£2.5 million had been proposed in the budget to start up a property company to start to provide affordable homes for local residents.

#### **98b Budget and Council Tax Setting 2022-2023 and Future Years Forecasts**

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.

Highlights picked out by councillors included:

- 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.

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.

The Cabinet members were thanked for their work in bringing the draft budget together.

## 99. **Cabinet Member Announcements**

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.

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.

The Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Digital Transformation, Housing Provision and Housing Needs reported that of the 2357 people on the housing register, 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.

**100. Consideration of the Forward Plan**

Consideration was given to the Forward Plan, and there were no matters to be added or removed.

**101. Members' Question Time**

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:

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.

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.

The Leader indicated that she would enquire whether this was possible.

CHAIRMAN

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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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## Cabinet - 10 February 2022

## Written question from Cllr Peter Spink to the Leader, Isle of Wight Council

1. Has Cabinet received a reply to the 2 letters written to Government re lifting the tilted balance (3 December 2021)?

*Answer –*

*No*

2. Will Cabinet ensure that the R 19 Draft Island Planning Strategy (DIPS) together with summary and supporting evidence papers will be served not less than 10 working days before the relevant meeting of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee?

*Answer –*

*The IPS, IPS summary document and associated housing evidence papers will be published on 4 April, which is five clear working days before the Corporate Scrutiny Committee on 12 April. This is the Council's standard approach to publishing papers in advance of a meeting.*

3. Will the Cabinet further ensure that the critique of the Report of the Task and Finish Group, together with the legal advice upon which the critique is based (as referred to in the email of Cllr Fuller dated 15/12) will be served in accordance with the above time-limit?

*Answer –*

*A summary of all responses received on the Draft IPS, including the Task & Finish Group report, and how the IPS has been revised, where appropriate, to reflect these responses, will be published as a Consultation Statement alongside the IPS when it is published for public representation. Producing a Consultation Statement, which will be considered by the Planning Inspector, is a statutory requirement. The evidence papers will include the relevant legal advice relied upon when preparing the IPS and evidence papers.*

*The Consultation Statement will identify and summarise the issues raised through the consultation undertaken to date. As already stated we will be publishing our Consultation Statement alongside the IPS for public representation, but should the Scrutiny Committee wish to see a more detailed response to the T&FG report then this will of course be provided by officers as part of the papers to be published on 4 April.*

4. Does Cabinet agree that the summary of the DIPS should represent a clear and balanced precis of the contents of the DIPS? If yes, does cabinet agree that as an absolute minimum the summary should make the following clear
  - a) the reduced figure of 486 units to be built per annum is **a minimum** figure.
  - b) with regard to the 75 sites, allocated for development, that have been removed from the DIPS 51 "**could**" (i) **and/or are expected and desired** (ii) to come forward for development.

*Answer –*

*Yes, any summary document of the IPS should represent a clear and balanced summary of the contents of the IPS;*

*Yes, the summary should make clear that the housing number in the IPS is a minimum, as required by the NPPF.*

*Yes, the summary should be clear that other sites, in addition to those allocated in the IPS, could come forward for development*

5. Does Cabinet agree that the summary should inform the reader thereof of the allocated development and the provisions for unallocated development in their area (either by description or by reference to the relevant pages in the DIPS)?

*Answer –*

*Yes the summary should inform the reader by making clear references to where in the main IPS document the reader can find development allocated in particular areas of the island, together with information on how and when other sites could come forward for development in particular areas.*

*It is noted that should sites for new homes that are not proposed for allocation in the IPS come forward under the policy provisions referenced in the question, they would be sites that would be expected to provide 100% affordable housing and/or be on previously developed land (also known as brownfield land).*

*A key point here is that with a new plan that resets our housing number to a more realistic and Island appropriate number, it also means that our Five Year Land Supply and Housing Delivery Test requirements are reset. Assuming we are meeting these requirements, we will have a choice about we permit development under these policy provisions or not, as we would no longer be under the presumption in favour of sustainable development.*

*The use of sites, regardless of whether they are allocated or not, that are for an expected 100% affordable new homes and/or on brownfield land is something that I am sure all sides of the Chamber will welcome and support.*

- i) **Evidence Paper B July 2021 para 4.7: “It is important to note that of the 75 sites removed from the first Draft IPS, 51 could still come forward for development** under the Rural / First Homes exception sites policy (34) or new brownfield sites policy (17). Of the 13 new sites suggested to IWC during and since the last IPS consultation that have not been taken forward as allocations, four can still come forward under the aforementioned policies. This position aligns with the housing number of 486 dwellings per annum within the Draft IPS not being a target to aim for in line with the NPPF. Windfall dwellings delivered through policies H7 and H9 would be in addition to the planned growth on allocated and permitted sites”.
- ii) **Evidence Paper C July 2021: “A significant factor to set out is that the number in the IPS is a minimum**, rather than a ceiling or target and the policies are focused on securing the housing that is most needed on the sites allocated – **it is inevitable, and indeed expected and desired, for other sustainable sites to come forward** and deliver a market facing solution that may pick up many elements discussed in this paper. Other policies in the plan, including the Previously Developed Land policy (H9) and the Rural & First Homes Exception Sites policy (H7) provide routes for additional units to be delivered over and above the allocations within the IPS”.