

## Audit and Governance Committee – 11 December 2023

### Written question from Cllr Peter Spink to the Audit and Governance Committee:

How much land (number and area) and which building assets has the Council disposed of or exchanged during this and the last financial years, what is their aggregate value per year, and how many and of what aggregate value have not been fully (including value, terms, contract parties etc) publicly disclosed, and does this committee believe that hiding the terms of such significant assets that could otherwise been used to provide Council rental properties at social rent levels is appropriate, open and transparent?

## Response

*Under the current governance arrangements decisions with regard to disposal and use of council assets sit with the cabinet.*

*I will pass this question through to the relevant Cabinet member to provide a detailed response as to the number and value of disposals.*

*On the general principle of openness and transparency, I would expect Isle of Wight Council to be operating in line with the government's "Local government transparency code". A link is <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-government-transparency-code-2015>*

*I note also that the Local Government Association has published guidance at <https://www.local.gov.uk/our-support/research-and-data/data-and-transparency/local-transparency-guidance>*

*The code and guidance recognises the importance of disclosure of information to the public proactively and in response to enquiries. Both also recognise that information may be confidential and exempt and that there is a statutory basis for non-disclosure.*

*Once the Cabinet member has provided a response, it will be appropriate for this to be published.*