



Record of decision

**THE FOLLOWING DECISIONS WERE TAKEN ON THURSDAY, 12TH MAY, 2022
BY THE CABINET**

**THE CALL IN PERIOD FOR THESE DECISIONS EXPIRES AT 5.00 PM ON
MONDAY, 23RD MAY 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, K Love and I Stephens

Members also present(non-voting)

Cllrs R Downer, S Ellis, P Spink,

Officers Present

C Ashman, S Betts, S Crocker, I Lloyd, C Potter, C Shand

Confirmed as a true record of decisions taken

Leader of the Council

Agenda item	Minutes
Decision reference	127 – 2021/22
Decision Taken	<u>RESOLVED</u> That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2022 be approved.

Agenda item	Declarations of Interest
Decision reference	128 – 2021/22
Decision Taken	Cllr Debbie Andre declared a non-pecuniary interest in the item relating to the Wildheart Trust as she was the local member for the area and also a member of Sandown Town Council, and would not be taking part in the voting on that item. Cllr Chris Jarman declared an interest in the item relating

	to Wightcare as he was responsible for the management of his father's care plan.
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Agenda item	Public Question Time - Maximum 15 Minutes for Written Questions and 15 Minutes for Oral Questions
Decision reference	129 – 2021/22
Decision Taken	<p>Written questions had been received from Dominic Coughlin (PQ 33-22) relating to the school term dates report and Diane Barker (PQ 34-22) relating to school place planning and the future of Chillerton and Rookley school.</p> <p>Responses were given by the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Lifelong Skills.</p>

Agenda item	Post 16 Transport Policy Statement 2022
Decision reference	130 – 2021/22
Summary of Discussion	Local Authorities were required to prepare and publish a statement each year. The existing policy had last been reviewed in 2021 and it was not believed that any changes were required this year.
Decision Taken	That Cabinet approves the proposed 2022 Post-16 Transport Policy Statement as set out in Appendix 1.
Reason for the decision and corporate objective it aligns with	The recommendation in this report links to the Corporate Plan 2021-25 priority, which is to work with local communities to maintain and ensure appropriate local school provision. It supports students with learning difficulty or disabilities to continue into post 16 training or education.
Options considered and rejected	Not to approve the proposed Post 16 Transport Policy Statement 2022 as set out in Appendix 1.

Agenda item	Determine the pattern of School Term and Holiday Dates for 2023/24
Decision reference	131 – 2021/22

Summary of Discussion	<p>Further consultation had taken place, with over 3250 responses from a broad range of people including, school staff, parents and businesses. The majority, including school staff, were in support of a two-week half term break.</p> <p>If was noted that the first day of the school year would be Friday 1 September 2023 and it was hoped that schools would taken this as a development day, returning to school on Monday 4 September 2023. Although the council did not set the term dates for school outside the local authority's control it was hoped that all school would follow the same date pattern. Information would be put onto the council's website advising parents to check with their own school which day they would return to school.</p>
Decision Taken	That the proposed calendar for term dates 2023/2024 as in Appendix 3 be approved.
Reason for the decision and corporate objective it aligns with	The recommendation in this report links to the Corporate Plan 2021-25 priority which is to work with local communities to maintain and ensure appropriate local school provision. Also raising educational achievement is a priority of the Council as set out in the Council's Corporate Plan. The standardisation of dates as much as possible across schools helps them to plan effectively and supports good attendance.
Options considered and rejected	<p>Option 2 - To approve an alternative calendar to that set out in Appendix 3.</p> <p>Other options considered have included;</p> <p>the more typical one-week October half term holiday and seeking to establish a school year that includes two-weeks and three weekends in the Christmas holiday whenever possible,</p> <p>a 'hybrid' with more than twelve days break holiday in October half term break.</p>

Agenda item	To Treat the Wildheart Trust (formerly Sandown Zoo) as a special purchaser for an area of council land adjacent to their site
Decision reference	132 – 2021/22
Summary of Discussion	<p>Cllr Andre took no part in the voting on this item.</p> <p>The comments of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee were</p>

	noted, that this would allow the council to undertake further negotiations with the Trust before any final decision was taken on the disposal of the land.
Decision Taken	To treat with the Wildheart Trust as a special purchaser of land adjoining the Wildheart Animal Sanctuary, Culver Parade, Sandown.
Reason for the decision and corporate objective it aligns with	<p>The recommendation supports the UN sustainable development goals for: (8) Decent Works and Economic Growth by supporting local growth of a business that employs local staff and supply chain,(11) Sustainable Communities by generating green and culturally inspiring setting within the community (13) Climate Action (15) Life on Land – by committing already to ecological surveys and development that supports the Biosphere and will harmonise with local habitats</p> <p>The proposal would enable the Wildheart Sanctuary to progress its long term investment plans with the aim of sustaining and growing the facility which would benefit the local economy of Sandown and the visitor economy of the Island.</p>
Options considered and rejected	<p>Not to dispose of the land adjoining Wildheart Sanctuary, Culver Parade, Sandown.</p> <p>To offer the land adjoining Wildheart Sanctuary, Culver Parade, Sandown on the open market.</p>

Agenda item	Commercial Strategy
Decision reference	133 – 2021/22
Summary of Discussion	This was the start of a process of transformational change, the council becoming more opportunistic, with a more business-like way of thinking. It was a route forward for a change in policies and attitude and there would be some training needed for staff. Community wealth-building had been included as this would support the local economy and help local businesses.
Decision Taken	That Cabinet approves the Isle of Wight Council Commercial Strategy contained at Appendix 1 to this report.
Reason for the decision and	The strategic aims in the commercial strategy were formed against the key activities in the corporate plan. The

<p>corporate objective it aligns with</p>	<p>strategy is closely aligned to the achievement of activities 9, 10 and 12 – improving the financial position of the organisation; invest and spend as much money on Island as possible; and looking at invest to save opportunities which can be funded by borrowing.</p> <p>The strategy further supports the alliances position in using the councils position to act as a steward of place; leverage its unique status as an authority and one of the predominant procurers to spend and invest in Island businesses to reinvest wealth cyclically across our Island economy. Along with the refreshed procurement strategy, the commercial strategy will act as a primary puzzle piece for achieving the alliances core goals, specifically in economic recovery. The commercial strategy further acts as an offset to all other strategies – with budget pressures ever-present, the strategy’s aim to increase revenue through increased income or savings (thus elevating the financial position of the council) will allow the council more flexibility to deliver services, projects and capitalise on new opportunities.</p>
<p>Options considered and rejected</p>	<p>Option 2: Not to approve the Isle of Wight Council Commercial Strategy contained at Appendix 1 and to prepare an alternative strategy.</p>

<p>Agenda item</p>	<p>Wightcare Business Unit - Business Model Development</p>
<p>Decision reference</p>	<p>134 – 2021/22</p>
<p>Summary of Discussion</p>	<p>It was intended to move forward with the fee increases identified in the February 2022 budget and for the Wightcare service to be reviewed as a discrete business identity. Consultation had taken place and 73% of respondents would prefer to see a fee increase as long as the same level of service was maintained. It was important that the service did not continue to be subsidised from elsewhere in the Adult Social Care budget. It was noted that 2200 people currently used the service and there was a lot of potential to enhance the services provided. The fees had not increased since 2018 and this had left a 36% gap in the budget which would need to be made up gradually with the aim of reaching a ‘break even’ point.</p> <p>The comments of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee were noted.</p>
<p>Decision Taken</p>	<p>Cabinet agrees to:</p>

	<p>Option 1 - Confirm the revised fee structure changes as per the 2022/2023 budget and activate from 01 July 2022 or earlier if possible, and</p> <p>Option 3 - Undertake a review of the current Wightcare business model and to revert with a formal all options analysis and recommended forward plan for the unit going forwards.</p> <p>As elements of 3 above, Cabinet agrees that the business model will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a definitive position on the regulatory requirements for the council charging structure for Wightcare as per the relevant legislation as identified by Finance. • Define a model for apportionment of council administrative costs to be used in relation to business units and hence applied to the business model for Wightcare • Define a forward business model for Wightcare taking into account the above, best practices elsewhere, predicted inflation, utility, and other costs, expected market demand for both the basic and enhances options and with regular review periods. • Be presented to Cabinet no later than September 2022.
<p>Reason for the decision and corporate objective it aligns with</p>	<p>The Alliance Administration intends to proactively seek new streams of income that it can reinvest in services for the community by acting in a more commercial focused manner. It has set out the need for the council to be financially balanced and sustainable.</p> <p>The need of the fee review provides the opportunity for the Wightcare Service to operate on a stable footing with zero subsidy to ensure the service remains available for its clients of today and for tomorrow to enable everyone:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be part of the community and enjoy good health • To understand the work of the council and the

	challenges it faces.
Options considered and rejected	<p>Option 2 - Not to confirm the revised fee structure changes as per the 2022/2023 budget and to identify additional substantial service reductions with adult social care to maintain the growing level of subsidy required to maintain the service.</p> <p>Option 4 - Not to undertake a review and identify reductions to the Wightcare service to establish break even within its ability to generate revenue.</p>

Agenda item	Bereavement Services Business Unit - Business Model Development
Decision reference	135 – 2021/22
Summary of Discussion	<p>The intention was to review the current business model for bereavement services and create a business unit which would include cremations, burials and the management of graveyard sites. It was noted that there had recently been a large hike in energy prices. An ‘all options’ analysis would be undertaken, and it was confirmed that burials at sea would also be included. There had been an amendment to the published appendix containing the fees and charges for cremations and burials, which had been circulated to the Cabinet members and this would be amended online.</p> <p>The Leader declared an interest at this point as she had purchased a burial plot from the council.</p> <p>Consideration would need to be given to a four-fold increase in energy prices, including those coming in October 2022 and anticipate the increase in the fees.</p>
Decision Taken	<p>That Cabinet confirms the revised fee structure changes as per the 2022/23 budget and implement from 1 July 2022 or earlier if possible and identify an alternative saving/funding source to cover the loss of 30k from the budgeted position.</p> <p>That Cabinet undertakes a review of the bereavement services business model and to agree a formal business analysis and plan for the service going forwards.</p>
Reason for the decision and	The Alliance Administration intends to proactively seek new streams of income that it can reinvest in services for

corporate objective it aligns with	the community by acting in a more commercial focused manner. It has set out the need for the council to be financially balanced and sustainable. Moving forward, Bereavement Services will constitute a business unit within the overall structure of the Isle of Wight Local Authority and will need to be economically self-sustaining.
Options considered and rejected	<p>Not to confirm the revised fee structure changes as per the 2022/2023 budget and identify an alternative saving/source of funding to cover the loss to the budgeted position of 120K.</p> <p>Not to undertake a review and leaving the position of rising cost of utilities and inflation not to be addressed at this time.</p>

Agenda item	Hackney Carriage Table of Fares
Decision reference	136 – 2021/22
Summary of Discussion	<p>Council officers had met with the taxi trade association and they had requested an increase in fares. The fares had not been raised since 2014 and were last reviewed in 2019 when there was only one small change. There was a need to ensure that fares were affordable but ensured a reliable service. The recent increase in fuel prices was noted.</p> <p>The Corporate Scrutiny Committee had noted that there was a need to ensure that fares were clearly displayed and that they were the maximum that could be charged.</p>
Decision Taken	That the Hackney Carriage Table of Fares be agreed as amended in Appendix 3 to this report to come into effect from 1 June 2022.
Reason for the decision and corporate objective it aligns with	<p>The Safe and sustainable public transport supplied by taxis is an essential part of the economy by providing transport to and from retailers, entertainment, and hospitality venues.</p> <p>Taxis are an integral part of providing public transport at all times of the day and ensures that safe travel is always provided by licenced and vetted drivers. The Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards (“the Standards”) issued under the Policing and Crime Act 2017 that were published in July 2020. The focus of these standards is on protecting children and vulnerable adults.</p>

Options considered and rejected	<p>That the Cabinet do not make any changes to the existing Hackney Carriage Table of Fares.</p> <p>That the Hackney Carriage Table of Fares be agreed as amended by the Cabinet during the meeting and will come into effect from 1 June 2022.</p>
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Agenda item	Cabinet Member Announcements
Decision reference	137 – 2021/22
Summary of Discussion	<p>The Cabinet Member for Planning and Community Engagement reported that the Queen’s speech earlier in the week had mentioned proposals for the Levelling Up Act which was proposed for 2024. The main points would be circulated to councillors the following week. Officers would scrutinise the proposals as they went through parliament. The Cabinet member would continue to liaise with the Island’s MP.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Education and Lifelong Skills reported that the government papers on education and SEN services had been received and the implication for the Island were being looked at. Recommendations would be reported back.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member had attended a very impressive Young Enterprise Event in which seven schools had taken part including St Catherine’s school. The result was yet to be announced. The Cabinet Member would also be attending the Child of Wight award ceremony.</p> <p>Several Ukrainian families had been welcomed to the island. This would bring extra pressure to children’s services and progress would be monitored.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health reported that it was currently Mental Health Week. He had attended an event at the hospital at which mental health services were promoted.</p> <p>The Health and Care Bill had received Royal Assent on 28 April and guidance was awaited on its implementation.</p> <p>The workforce in Adult Social Care had slightly improved. There had been some positive initiatives with the NHS.</p> <p>MAD-AID, based in East Cowes had worked with several voluntary groups and individuals to transport 11 truck loads</p>

of aid to Moldova and GP surgeries and the hospice had donated a lot of equipment. The Cabinet Member himself had been to visit the country to see the work being carried out there.

The Cabinet Member for Community Protection, Digital Transformation, Housing Provision and Housing Needs reported that the white paper on fire had been given Royal Assent. There would be a fire safety and prevention document coming forward. He was still working with the fire authority and the PCC to try and get a One Public Estate blue light centre.

Since the Island Plan core strategy in 2012 there had been a shortfall of 1244 homes. There were currently 2466 homes needed on the housing list. Five rough sleepers were currently being cared for. There had been an annual increase of 19% in empty properties since 2019. 121 of these had been empty for more than two years. It was hoped that the housing problems may be alleviated by working within the empty property strategy to try and bring some back into use.

The Cabinet Member for the Environment, Heritage and Waste reported that work was ongoing in developing the Climate Change strategy and bringing biosphere principles into actions taken.

The household battery recycling facility was now available to the public who could put batteries out with their general waste.

The Cabinet Member for Highways PFI, Transport and Infrastructure reported that free parking for NHS patients travelling to the mainland for treatment had been put in place. It was hoped that this would extend to ferry travel in the future. There was to be two hours free parking in Newport starting in two weeks' time.

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Tourism and Business Development reported that she would be going to Southampton to represent the Island for the City of Culture bid. The judges would be in Southampton all day and it was hoped there would be a chance to promote the island and its links with Southampton.

A visit had been carried out to the Innovation Wight centre at Northwood which was intended to be opened at the end of June 2022.

	<p>There was to be a 'Celebrate Ryde' event on 14 May in conjunction with Ryde Town Council.</p> <p>There was to be another chance to bid in the next round of Levelling Up. Any bids had to be transport related. Options were currently being considered an a report would be presented to Cabinet in June.</p> <p>It was disappointing that the Island had only received £1 million from the Shared Prosperity Fund which was less than hoped for. A report would be presented to Cabinet in July to decide how the funds would be spent.</p> <p>Leisure centres were seeing a 67% recovery of One Card users. Medina Theatre had seen an increase of more than 1000 people this April than in April 2018 or 2019.</p>
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Agenda item	Consideration of the Forward Plan
Decision reference	138 – 2021/22
Summary of Discussion	The item relating to the future of Chillerton and Rookley School was to be removed from the Forward Plan as the school was to remain open.

Agenda item	Members' Question Time
Decision reference	139 – 2021/22
Summary of Discussion	<p>No written questions were received.</p> <p>Cllr Spink asked an oral question on the matter of public and members' questions not being on the agenda for previous meetings, and said that some residents were concerned that this had been purposely done to stifle discussion on the Island Planning Strategy and asked whether the Leader took those concerns seriously.</p> <p>The Leader confirmed that the concerns were taken seriously.</p> <p>Cllr Spink asked a supplementary question as to whether it was in the public interest to therefore have a full investigation as to what decisions were made, by whom and in what order.</p> <p>The Leader indicated that a written response would be sent.</p>

	<p>The Cabinet Member for the Environment, Heritage and Waste said that the Monitoring Officer had been clear at the Corporate Scrutiny meeting on 10 May that there was a gap in the Constitution and that there would not have been breach of the rules had the meetings actually taken place, which they did not.</p>
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