

# Record of decision

**THE FOLLOWING DECISIONS WERE TAKEN ON TUESDAY, 1 MARCH 2011 BY  
THE CABINET IN COMMITTEE ROOM ONE**

**THE CALL IN PERIOD FOR THESE DECISIONS EXPIRES AT 5.00 PM ON  
THURSDAY, 10 MARCH 2011**

Members of the Cabinet who were present

Cllrs David Pugh (Chair), Barry Abraham, George Brown, Dawn Cousins,  
Edward Giles, Roger Mazillius

Apologies

Cllr Tim Hunter-Henderson

Other Members also present (non-voting)

Cllrs Churchman, Downer, Hobart, Jones-Evans, Knowles, Lumley, Webster,  
Williams

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Confirmed as a true record of decisions taken .....

**Leader of the Council**

<b>Agenda item</b>	<a href="#"><u>Minutes of the Last Meeting</u></a>
<b>Decision reference</b>	<b>57 (10/11)</b>
<b>Decision Taken</b>	THAT the minutes of the meeting held on <a href="#"><u>Tuesday, 8 February 2011</u></a> be agreed.
<b>Questions / Amendments</b>	None.

<b>Agenda item</b>	<a href="#"><u>Declarations of Interest</u></a>
<b>Decision reference</b>	<b>58 (10/11)</b>
	No declarations were made at this stage of the meeting.

<b>Agenda item</b>	<a href="#"><u>Public Question Time</u></a>
<b>Decision reference</b>	<b>59(10/11)</b>
<b>Questions</b>	A written question from Mr Bob Blezzard of Sandown over the proposals around the future of the Islands Library Service was put to the Cabinet ( <a href="#"><u>PQ 8/11</u></a> ).

A supplemental question was asked around the cost of £236,000 to bring the hours of the libraries back to the current arrangements.

The Cabinet Member advised that the question should be addressed during the debate on Paper B although did request that Mr Blezzard submit the supplemental question in writing and a response would be provided after the meeting.

Mr McGee, an Island resident, asked an oral question around the damage to the physical, mental, social and economic wellbeing of Islanders as a result of the budget cuts and what measures were in place to address the effects. The Leader responded by advising that equality impact assessments had been made and that the risk associated with not setting a balance budget, such as intervention from outside bodies, was also considered.

Mr McGee responded by citing Waterside Pool and its possible closure as an area which would impact badly on the public's wellbeing. The Leader responded by advising that the Cabinet Member and appropriate officers would be working closely with Ryde Town Council in order to find a positive way forward for the continued opening of the pool.

An oral question was put to the Cabinet around when the cuts to major services would cease following the publicised reductions in senior council staff. The Leader responded by advising that cuts in all levels of management needed to be made and that whilst these delivered significant savings, some cuts in front line services still needed to be made in order to deliver the balanced budget which was required.

An oral question was put to the Cabinet around the Highways' PFI Programme and the escalating costs attributed to Portsmouth City Council, as reported in a recent local BBC programme - "Inside Out" and asked if the Cabinet were concerned that such a financial burden could befall the Island. The Cabinet Member responded by reminding members that the PFI grant of some £10 – 15 million per year for a period of 25 years from the Government was not a loan which needed to be repaid and that the benefits to the Island in both the highway network and the economy were significant and could not be ignored.

An oral question was put to the Cabinet over the sharing of a Chief Executive with other authorities in order to achieve savings. The Leader responded by advising that sharing a Chief Executive would pose some significant logistical problems owing to the Islands geographical nature. Members were also reminded that the Chief Executive also took on the responsibilities of Director for Children and Young People (schools and education) which represented a cost saving for the council when compared to other local authorities.

	<p>An oral question was put around the transparency of data released and published as well as the increasing categories causing confusion as to finding specific council spend. The Leader responded by stating that whilst the council welcomed central governments directive to make council spend available to the general public, and acknowledged concerns, costs to the council associated should be taken into account and a balance should be made. The Leader agreed to provide a more detailed response in relation to specific spend on the release of data after the meeting.</p>
<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	None

<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>The Future of The Island's Library Service (<a href="#">Part 1</a> and <a href="#">Part 2</a>)</b>
<b>Decision reference</b>	<b>60 (10/11)</b>
<b>Summary of discussion</b>	<p>The Cabinet Member presented a report which set out the options for the future of the Isle of Wight Council's Library Service.</p> <p>Members were advised that concerns of the Island residents had been taken fully into account during the consultation process and as a result an additional option was proposed.</p> <p>The additional option would commit the council to a further £50,000 of revenue funding to enable communities to purchase extra hours, books or additional library materials in IWC-operated libraries. The further funding would also support community engagement in all libraries on the Island as well as pay for basic ICT and data communications in community libraries.</p> <p>The £50,000 would be identified from the Homes Bonus Support Grant.</p> <p>It was noted that it was the clear aim of the council to continue to provide a best possible library service to the Island whilst still having to make the necessary savings.</p> <p>A number of Cabinet Members reported that Libraries in their respective wards were all in the process of negotiating ways to remain open with the assistance of the relevant Town and Parish councils and that all the Islands Libraries had opportunities to continue to operate at some level.</p>
<b>Issues Raised by Other Members</b>	<p>Concerns were raised by other members with regard to use of some of the budget reserves in order to retain a full Library service as opposed to allow the financial commitment to be placed on Town and Parish councils which would be reflected in the precepts and passed on to many Island residents.</p> <p>The Leader responded by reminding members that the proposals around the Libraries were agreed by a majority at Full Council on</p>

	<p>23 February 2011.</p> <p>There was also concerns raised around the issue of a full repairing lease for smaller community group Libraries which some may find to be unacceptable and inoperable. The Cabinet Member responded by advising that before such a transfer of premises to a community group, assurances would need to be put in place that a programme of maintenance was established. It was not the intention of asking community groups to take on any excessive burden which would prove to be unduly onerous.</p>
<p><b>Decision taken</b></p>	<p>THAT the following options be agreed:</p> <p><b>Option B</b> The Council would operate libraries in Cowes, Freshwater, Newport, Ryde, Sandown and Ventnor. In addition, the Council would continue to operate libraries, in Bembridge, Brighstone, East Cowes, Niton and Shanklin, from 1 April 2011 until 30 June 2011, during which period it will seek to negotiate the devolution of library control to bodies in the local community. Should there be no devolved arrangement with a community body, or one in significant negotiation, by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011, Isle of Wight Council operation of a library in that locality will cease.</p> <p><b>Option C</b> The Council would redefine the relationship between the Libraries' Headquarters and operating libraries. Specifically, it would look to devolve budgets to libraries set out in Option B. The Council would also use the Newport and Ryde libraries to evaluate self-service critically before making any move to purchase multiple units of such equipment.</p> <p><b>Option D</b> Where a town or parish council or a community group agrees to operate a community library from an existing library building, the Council may enter into a beneficial lease with the interested party to enable the transfer of the building for the purpose of a library and ancillary community use.</p> <p><b>Option E</b> Where a town or parish council or a community group agrees to operate a community library where there is no existing library site in the area, the Council will, subject to an evaluation of its feasibility, support the council/group through the provision of a core stock of books, materials and equipment and provide ongoing advice, training and support on the basis of the devolved model described in Option C</p> <p><b>Option F</b> An additional £50,000 revenue funding would be provided to enable communities to purchase extra hours, books or additional library materials in IWC-operated libraries. This would provide for</p>

	response to community priorities and support local control over library purchasing. This funding would support community engagement in all libraries on the Island. The sum of £50,000 would also pay for basic ICT and data communications in community libraries.
<b>Reason for decision and corporate themes it aligns with</b>	<p>To continue to meet statutory obligations, with significantly-reduced resources.</p> <p>To deliver new economic opportunities in local communities.</p> <p>To align with the following corporate themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A healthy and supportive Island</li> <li>• A safe and well-kept Island</li> <li>• An inspiring Island</li> </ul>
<b>Options considered and rejected</b>	<b>Option A</b> The Council would continue to run eleven library sites across the Island, with their current opening hours.
<b>Declarations of Interests</b>	None

<b>Agenda item</b>	<a href="#"><u>Public Convenience Review</u></a>
<b>Decision reference</b>	<b>61 (10/11)</b>
<b>Summary of Discussion</b>	<p>The Cabinet Member presented a report which provided the outcome of the consultation undertaken with town and parish councils, communities and businesses about the council's public conveniences it intended to retain and close.</p> <p>It was noted that as a result of the public consultation and taking various concerns into account, the proposals would ensure that there were public conveniences to serve all of the Islands major towns and beach resorts.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member also stated that the Island still had more public conveniences per head of population than anywhere else in the UK.</p> <p>With regard to Ventnor Botanical Gardens, the Cabinet Member stated that the conveniences were essential to the facilities and that whatever the future proposals to the gardens were; the toilets would need to be incorporated.</p> <p>It was noted that there was an administrative error with regard to the report and that the numbering of the recommendations should have started after the wording "That the Council adopts options (i), (ii), (iii), (iv), (v), and (vi)".</p> <p>It was further noted that the words "for retention" would be added prior to the words "in Appendix 2" in recommendation (vi)</p>

<p><b>Issues Raised by Other Members</b></p>	<p>Concerns were expressed with regard to the lack of public conveniences in the centre of Ryde town following the closure of the toilets on the side of the Ryde Theatre building in 2010 and if there were any plans to provide replacement amenities.</p> <p>The Leader responded by stating that the management of Ryde Theatre was a different issue and that discussions between Ryde Town Council and Isle of Wight Council officers to look at ways of providing town centre facilities would always be welcomed. The current budget allocation however could not support opening any new facilities (or reopening) in Ryde or anywhere else on the Island at present.</p>
<p><b>Decision taken</b></p>	<p>THAT the following be agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) The council confirms that the public conveniences it will continue to support (retained facilities) and those it will not support (surplus facilities) shall be as listed in <b>Appendix 2</b> to the report.</li> <li>(ii) The council confirms that the surplus facilities identified in <b>Appendix 2</b> to the report will be disposed, where possible, through its normal processes.</li> <li>(iii) The council commences further negotiations with third parties who have expressed an interest in the future management of facilities as identified in <b>Appendix 2</b> to the report.</li> <li>(iv) The council will continue to directly provide only the retained public conveniences.</li> <li>(v) The council considers adding further public conveniences to those which are identified for retention in <b>Appendix 2</b> to the report following successful conclusion of agreements with third parties to manage those facilities for which an expression of interest has been made and are on the retained list.</li> <li>(vi) All surplus public conveniences identified in <b>Appendix 2</b> to the report will close permanently on 31 March 2011. However, those identified for retention in <b>Appendix 2</b> to the report which have an interest registered by a third party that is successfully concluded prior to this date will remain open. Those that have not been concluded by this date will be closed and will only re-open upon successful conclusion.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Reason for the decision and corporate objective it aligns with</b></p>	<p>To continue to contribute to the priority of regeneration and the economy whilst making savings.</p> <p>To contribute to the safe and well-kept Island theme of the Eco Island Sustainable Community Strategy (2008-2020).</p>

<b>Options considered and rejected</b>	(vii) That the council does not confirm the public conveniences it is to continue to support as detailed in <b>Appendix 2</b> to the report and agree an alternative list
<b>Declarations of Interests</b>	None

<b>Agenda item</b>	<a href="#"><u>Quarterly Performance &amp; Strategic Risk Management Report - Quarter 3 2010/11</u></a>
<b>Decision reference</b>	<b>62 (10/11)</b>
<b>Summary of Discussion</b>	<p>The Leader presented a report in the absence of the relevant Cabinet Member which updated on the council's performance and strategic risks for the third quarter of 2010/11 ending 31 December 2010.</p> <p>It was noted that savings were already being realised within performance owing to the incorporation of the area into the Business Effectiveness unit.</p> <p>Various areas were discussed and the issue of temporary exclusions within the area of Learning and Achievement were highlighted. It was noted that this was still a cause for concern and that Cabinet would be provided with an update on 21 June 2011 outlining what actions would be required to reduce the figure. However it was noted that the figure for 16-24 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEETs) had improved.</p> <p>With regard to the area of Targeted Intervention, and the performance rating for % for stability of placements of looked after children - length of placement' coming in at some 14% under target, the Cabinet Member advised that the figure was being taken very seriously and all steps would be taken to improve the situation. However, it was noted that as well as looking to deliver on target, the quality of the service needed to be a priority.</p> <p>On the issue of Waste Management, it was noted that there was a need to look at the collection of waste in order to improve the Islands recycling rates and that a public consultation exercise would be carried out to look at the possibility of collecting certain non food items on a fortnightly basis. It was however stressed that weekly collections for all food items would continue and that all avenues needed to be explored to help bring down the amount of waste that was being put into landfill. A report would be brought to Cabinet on 21 June 2011 to report on the findings.</p> <p>It was noted that on the area of "Black Box" recycling there had been poor communication on advising the public that cardboard could now be left for fortnightly collection. Cabinet therefore requested that this area was addressed.</p>

	<p>On the area of the Highways PFI, it was noted that the BBC would be approached about inaccuracies broadcast in its “Inside Out” programme which looked at the Portsmouth PFI programme as well highlighting areas of concern for the Island.</p> <p>It was further noted that whilst there had been an increase in inappropriate alcohol and tobacco sales to underage individuals, two local sops had been penalised as a result of making such an offence and was issued with a penalty to prevent selling alcohol for a period of two days.</p> <p>Around the area of Fire and Rescue Service, there had been an improvement in the ‘% of home fire safety checks completed for vulnerable households’</p> <p>It was noted that on page D2 of the report the date of the User &amp; Carer Conference should be 25 February 2011 and not 19 January 2011. With regard to the first key stakeholder meeting taking place on 7 February, this should be amended to read “shortly”.</p> <p>On the area of ‘percentage of social care clients receiving self directed support - (direct payments and individual budgets)’ falling below target, the Cabinet Member explained that this was largely due to a combination of the holiday month and the extreme winter weather. Figures were now on track and the projections indicated that the end of year target of 30% would be achieved.</p>
<p><b>Issues Raised by Other Members</b></p>	<p>Members on the floor raised concerns around the 38% figure of targets missed, in particular that of Children &amp; Young People and the Economy &amp; Environment.</p> <p>The Leader responded by sharing the same concerns and that the areas were being looked at very carefully. However it must be recognised that with the reduced levels of funding in certain areas, such reductions in performance may continue before any improvement is made.</p> <p>Other areas of concern raised were that of the effectiveness of the Scrutiny Panels and what they could achieve once they had seen the performance reports as well as the status of the Islands Strategic Partnership (ISP).</p> <p>The Leader responded by advising that all Scrutiny Panels had been given a clear steer as to their respective roles. However the Leader stated that he would be happy to discuss the scrutiny role further with any other elected members if required.</p> <p>On the issue of the ISP, the Leader advised that the new Health and Wellbeing Board, which looked at the general wellbeing of Island Services as well as Health Issues, would succeed the ISP.</p> <p>It was noted that on the issue of the Schools Reorganisation, Wilmot Dixon was the company which oversaw the scoping of the work</p>



	<p>required in relation to those involved in the initiative. It was further noted that an Island company had been awarded a major £2 million contract in relation to the Cowes One School Pathfinder.</p> <p>The Leader advised members that with further regard to the School Reorganisation and the moving of Oakfield Primary School to the Bishop Lovett site, preparations were being made in conjunction with the Diocese to ensure a smooth transition, although it was taking more time than originally expected owing to the site at Bishop Lovett needing to be fully prepared. Both Head teachers and the Diocese were being kept closely informed and the Leader agreed to provide more details to the relevant ward member following the meeting.</p>
<b>Decision taken</b>	<p>Option 1 – THAT a full report on exclusions from schools is brought to Cabinet on 21 June 2011, outlining what actions are being taken to reduce exclusions be agreed</p> <p>Option 2 – THAT a report be brought to Cabinet on 6 September 2011 on the implementation of the recruitment and retention strategy for children’s social care and the impact on performance be agreed</p> <p>Option 3 – THAT a standing quarterly item, providing an update on the percentage of social care clients receiving self directed support be agreed.</p>
<b>Reason for the decision and corporate objective it aligns with</b>	<p>To support the Sustainable Community Strategy themes and seven council priorities as outlined in the Isle of Wight Council’s Corporate Plan 2009-2013.</p> <p>To align with the following corporate themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A thriving Island</li> <li>• A healthy and supportive Island</li> <li>• A safe and well-kept Island</li> <li>• An inspiring Island</li> </ul>
<b>Options considered and rejected</b>	That no action is taken.
<b>Declarations of Interests</b>	Cllr Mazillius declared a personal interest at this stage as his son worked for a company which provided architectural services to the council.

<b>Agenda items</b>	<a href="#"><u>Consideration of the Forward Plan</u></a>
<b>Decision reference</b>	<b>63 (10/11)</b>
<b>Amendments / Additions / Removals</b>	The council’s Forward Plan of key decision covering the March to June 2011 period was reviewed and no issues were raised.
<b>Declarations of Interests</b>	None declared

<b>Agenda items</b>	<a href="#"><u>Delegated Decisions</u></a>
<b>Decision reference</b>	<b>64 (10/11)</b>
<b>Summary of Discussion</b>	<p>The following Cabinet member Delegated Decision were taken since the last meeting of Cabinet on 8 February 2011:</p> <p>05/11 - To Agree the Nominations for the Local List of Buildings, Structures and Gardens of Special Local Historic or Architectural Interest – Taken on 24 February 2011 by Cllr Brown</p> <p>08/11 - Objections To The Isle Of Wight Council (Various Streets, Newport) (Traffic Regulation) Order No 1 2010 - Taken on 28 February 2011 by Cllr Giles</p>
<b>Declarations of Interests</b>	None received

<b>Agenda items</b>	<a href="#"><u>Members' Question Time</u></a>
<b>Decision reference</b>	<b>65 (10/11)</b>
<b>Questions</b>	No question were received