



Record of decision

THE FOLLOWING DECISIONS WERE TAKEN ON TUESDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER 2012 BY THE CABINET IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, IW

THE CALL IN PERIOD FOR THE DECISIONS EXPIRES AT 5.00 PM ON THURSDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER 2012

Members of the Cabinet who were present

Cllrs David Pugh (Chairman), George Brown, Edward Giles, Roger Mazillius, Dave Stewart

Members also present (non-voting)

Cllrs George Cameron, Vanessa Churchman, Richard Hollis, Stuart Hutchinson,

Apologies:

Cllr Dawn Cousins

Confirmed as a true record of decisions taken

Leader of the Council

Agenda item	<u>Minutes of the Last Meetings 21 August 2012</u>
Decision reference	24 (12/13)
Decision Taken	The minutes to the meeting held on 21 August be agreed.
Questions / Amendments	None

Agenda item	<u>Declarations of Interest</u>
Decision reference	25 (12/13)
	None declared

Agenda item	<u>Public Question Time</u>
Decision reference	26 (12/13)
Questions	There were no written questions received and no oral questions were put to the Cabinet

Agenda item	<u>Budget Review</u>
Decision reference	27 (12/13)
Summary of Discussion	<p>The Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Resources presented a report which provided members with an update on the council's financial position as of September 2012.</p> <p>The report took into account the previous financial year's outturn, the current year's delivery of savings and budget monitoring position, along with the projected budget position for the next financial year.</p> <p>It was noted that there had been significant a reduction in on-going spend with 76% of the savings in the 2011/12 budget in back office, efficiencies or additional income and 90% of the savings in the 2012/13 budget.</p> <p>Members were advised of examples of different areas of service delivery which included community bus services, Ventnor Botanic Gardens, Waterside Pool in Ryde, Shanklin Theatre, Fire Control, Public Toilets and Community Libraries as well as joint working with other organisations which had also contributed to efficiencies made.</p> <p>The Leader stated that it was still very early in the financial year and there were a range of issues and pressures that could arise and impact adversely on certain individual budget areas.</p> <p>Members were reminded that whilst the current projections for 2013/14 assumed no overall reduction in grant, there was still some caution expressed as Central Government was looking to reduce overall departmental spending limits by 5% to provide funding for new initiatives which could in turn lead to further grant reductions for all local authorities. It was further noted that irrespective of this, spending limits previously set by Government for 2014/15 and beyond would lead to significant reductions in grant funding.</p> <p>With regard to the savings arising from the 2011/12 outturn, a recommendation of a one off funding of £300,000 to support the continued delivery, in 2013/14, of initiatives in support of employment opportunities for young people was highlighted.</p> <p>Members were also advised that a recommendation to allocate up to a further £100,000 to invest in the further marketing of the Island as a destination, in 2012/13, in partnership with the Destination Management Organisation would also be put to them.</p>

	<p>The Cabinet Member for Procurement, Fire, Highways and Transport reminded members that savings would be made as a result of the Highways PFI Project and therefore not create further budgetary pressures.</p> <p>As an aside, the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for the Economy and Regulatory Services advised that the recent Bestival held at Robin Hill Country Park had been very successful. The working arrangements between the Authority and organisers should be seen as an excellent example of the council working well with other outside bodies and due recognition was given to all those involved.</p>
<p>Issues raised by other members</p>	<p>Members were advised that with regard to the remaining deficit on the Dedicated Schools Grant, the council would meet with the Academies Enterprise Trust (AET) to discuss the issue. The relationship between the authority and Schools Forum was regarded as healthy and the outcome of the discussions with AET would be incorporated into a Cabinet Paper on School funding in October 2012.</p> <p>On the issues of property disposals, the Deputy Leader advised that any assets which were deemed to be no longer required and could be disposed of would be reviewed on a case by case basis and the best possible price would be secured.</p>
<p>Decision taken</p>	<p>THAT Cabinet considers the results of the budget consultation undertaken as summarised in Appendix 1 to the report and recommends to Council that the following Options, (i) and (iv):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To agree the overall approach and strategy as set out in this report as the basis for developing the Budget Strategy for 2013/14 and the Medium-Term Financial Strategy.. • To note the progress with regard to various economic initiatives and to agree that £400k is earmarked to the initiatives recommended in Appendix 2 to the report, using additional savings that arose from the 2011/12 outturn, and that the recommended steps outlined in Appendix 2 of the report are also agreed.
<p>Reason for the decision and corporate objective it aligns with</p>	<p>To provide an update on the local authority's financial position.</p> <p>To direct appropriate resourcing to the following eight key priorities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Raising educational standards ii. Highways PFI iii. Keeping children safe

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iv. Supporting older and vulnerable residents v. Housing and homelessness vi. Regeneration and the economy vii. Waste strategy viii. Delivery of budget savings through changed service provision
Options considered and rejected	<p>Option (ii) - To identify and agree any specific further areas that should be worked up for consideration in the budget decisions in February 2013 and consult with residents / stakeholders as appropriate and to develop relevant Equality Impact Assessments.</p> <p>Option (iii) - To not agree the overall approach and strategy as set out in this report and ask that an alternative version be developed for consideration by members in due course.</p> <p>Option (v) - To note the progress with regard to various economic initiatives and not to agree that £400k is earmarked to the initiatives recommended in Appendix 2 to this report, and that the recommended steps outlined in Appendix 2 are not agreed.</p>
General Dispensation Granted	A general dispensation had been granted by the Appeals Committee on 5 September 2012 enabling members to speak in relation to the setting of the council tax which would form part of the discussions in the decision making of this item.

Agenda item	<u>Localisation of Council Tax Support</u>
Decision reference	28 (12/13)
Summary of Discussion	<p>The Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Resources presented a report which set out the proposed changes to the current national Council Tax Benefit Scheme where a local council tax support scheme would take its place.</p> <p>The report also provided the options and process for developing and implementing the new scheme.</p> <p>It was noted that there would be no change in the entitlement made available for claimants of pensionable age. The main objective would be to reduce support and replace with initiatives to incentivise people of working age to get back to work.</p> <p>Another area which would not be affected by the proposals would include the vulnerable people of a working age.</p> <p>With regard to those receiving Child Benefit, there would be no immediate change and the Council would await the</p>

	<p>guidance of how it would be treated with regard to Universal Credit.</p> <p>Members were of the opinion that the report presented to them was very thorough and comprehensive, although agreed that the resulting consultation process prior to the final decision being taken in January 2013 would need to be as straightforward as possible, highlighting what was being allocated to the Local Authority. It should also be clear in explaining who should be in receipt of the benefit, clarifying those which would be most in need.</p>
Issues raised by other members	<p>Members were advised that anyone residing in the relevant Council owned properties would be subject to the same agreed regulations.</p> <p>It was noted that there had been support from some local town and parish councils around the removal of the 10% discount for second home owners.</p>
Decision taken	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. THAT the options set out in the report and their potential impact as set out in Appendices 1, 2 and 3 be considered. ii. THAT the Stage 1 Equalities Impact Assessment set out in Appendix 4 to this report be considered. iii. THAT the proposed consultation process set out in the report on the council tax reforms set out in Appendix 6 to the report be considered. iv. THAT the draft Local Scheme set out in Appendix 5 to the report be considered v. THAT the recommended preferred option set out at paragraph 107 of the report be considered vi. THAT any comments from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be considered. vii. THAT the following be recommended to Council: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The overall consultation arrangements; (b) The preferred option that will form the basis of the consultation.
Reason for the decision and corporate objective it aligns with	<p>To agree a preferred option for a local scheme as the basis for consultation and comply with the Governments forthcoming proposal as of 1 April 2013.</p> <p>To reduce support and provide initiatives to incentivise people of working age to get back to work.</p>

	To align with the following Corporate Theme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A healthy and supportive Island
Options considered and rejected	To reject the options recommended in the report and wait to have the default scheme based on the existing council tax benefit scheme imposed.
General Dispensation Granted	A general dispensation had been granted by the Appeals Committee on 5 September 2012 enabling members to speak in relation to the setting of the council tax which would form part of the discussions in the decision making of this item.

Agenda item	<u>Community Right To Challenge</u>
Decision reference	29 (12/13)
Summary of Discussion	<p>The Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Resources presented to Cabinet a report which advised on the adoption of the policy which set out the way in which the Isle of Wight Council would operate the Community Right to Challenge.</p> <p>Members were reminded that Part 5 (Chapter 2) of the Localism Act 2011 introduced a right for parish councils, community and voluntary bodies, charitable trusts and two or more local authority employees to submit an expression of interest in taking over the provision of a service on behalf of the local authority, hence the term "Community Right to Challenge".</p> <p>It was noted that on receiving an expression of interest, the council would be required to carry out a number of checks to determine that a valid expression of interest had been made and that there were no grounds upon which it could be rejected. It would be anticipated that a procurement exercise could be started within nine months of such interest being accepted, although there would be no guarantee that the body which initiated the process would be successful in the procurement exercise.</p> <p>The Leader advised however that the initiative would not be a method for the council to reinstate a service as it would have already been subject to a previous policy decision.</p> <p>Anybody who had meaningful plans to take over a service and make significant savings for the council should be encouraged.</p>

Issues raised by other members	No issues were raised by other members.
Decision taken	<p>i. THAT the policy set out in the Appendix to the report be adopted.</p> <p>ii. THAT the Director of the Economy & Environment be given delegated responsibility to make minor amendments to the policy as required from time to time, in consultation with the Leader</p> <p>iii. THAT a report be brought forward on how to encourage community and voluntary participation, and / or staff mutual participation, in the provision of services</p> <p>iv. THAT subject to Option A being adopted, the period for inviting expressions of interest in the year 2012/13 of 1 October 2012 to 31 December 2012 be agreed.</p>
Reason for the decision and corporate objective it aligns with	<p>The implementation of the Community Right to Challenge and the proposed policy has the potential to assist the Council in meeting two of its corporate priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of budget savings through changed service provision • Regeneration and the economy. <p>To align with the following Corporate Themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A thriving Island • A healthy and supportive Island • A safe and well-kept Island • An inspiring Island
Options considered and rejected	<p>Option D – that a report is brought forward on how to encourage community and voluntary participation, and / or staff mutual participation, in the provision of services; and</p> <p>Option E – subject to Option A being adopted, the period for inviting expressions of interest in the year 2012/13 will be 1 October 2012 to 31 December 2012.</p>

Agenda item	<u>Consideration of the Forward Plan</u>
Decision reference	30 (12/13)
Questions	The Forward Plan was reviewed and no questions were asked.

Agenda item	<u>Delegated Decisions</u>
Decision reference	31 (12/13)
	<p>The following Cabinet Member delegated decisions had been taken since the last meeting of the Cabinet on 21 August 2012:</p> <p><u>27/12</u> - Property Capital Receipts Disposals Programme 2012 – 2015 - taken by Cllr Brown on 23 August 2012.</p> <p><u>28/12</u> - Proposed Sale of Former Yarmouth Youth Centre - taken by Cllr Brown on 23 August 2012.</p> <p><u>29/12</u> - Determination of Home to Education Transport Policy 2013 - taken by Cllr Cousins on 23 August 2012.</p> <p><u>30/12</u> - Proposed Sale Of St Nicholas House, St Johns Road, Newport – taken by Cllr Brown on 23 August 2012.</p> <p><u>34/12</u> - Revisions To Cabinet Member Responsibilities 2012/13 - taken by Cllr Pugh on 3 September 2012.</p> <p><u>32/12</u> - Cross Solent Joint Working on Economic Development - taken by Cllrs Brown and Giles on 4 September 2012.</p> <p><u>33/12</u> - Isle of Wight Council Toilet Refurbishment Programme 2012/13 - taken by Cllr Giles on 4 September 2012.</p> <p><u>31/12</u> - Proposed Sale Of Former Sunnycrest Nursery Site, Wacklands Lane, Newchurch -- taken by Cllr Brown on 6 September 2012.</p> <p>Members agreed to note the above.</p>

Agenda item	<u>Members Question Time</u>
Decision reference	32 (12/13)
Questions	No written questions had been received and no oral questions were asked.