



Record of decision

**THE FOLLOWING DECISIONS WERE TAKEN ON TUESDAY, 16 AUGUST 2011
BY THE CABINET**

**THE CALL IN PERIOD FOR THESE DECISIONS EXPIRES AT 5.00 PM ON
THURSDAY, 25 AUGUST 2011**

Members of the Cabinet who were present

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

Members also present (non voting)

Cllrs Julie Jones Evans, Tim Hunter-Henderson (Cabinet Secretary), Dave Stewart, Margaret Webster

Apologies

Cllr George Brown

Confirmed as a true record of decisions taken

Leader of the Council

Agenda item	<u>Minutes of the Last Meeting</u>
Decision reference	13 (10/11)
Decision Taken	That the minutes of the meeting held on <u>21 June 2011</u> be agreed.
Questions / Amendments	None.

Agenda item	<u>Declarations of Interest</u>
Decision reference	14 (10/11)
	Cllr Pugh declared a personal interest in decision reference 17 (10/11) as he had stepchildren who attended Island Schools.
	Cllr Abraham declared a personal interest in decision reference 17 (10/11) as he had a son who was in the Islands education system.

Agenda item	<u>Public Question Time</u>
Decision reference	15 (10/11)
Questions	<p>There were no written questions received from members of the public.</p> <p>Mr Adrian Nichols, an Island Resident, put an oral question to the Cabinet around the Highways PFI and asked whether the council would continue with the initiative in light of the recent global market activities.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded by stating that the council would not be reconsidering their position and that the initiative would proceed. It was also noted that the council would be committed to providing services for the PFI for the duration of the project.</p> <p>Ms Tanya Rebel, an Island Resident asked what the council would be doing to assist in reclaiming services that had been lost in the recent budgetary measures.</p> <p>The Leader of the Council responded by stating that such public spending cuts were necessary in order for the council to maintain a healthy financial position. However, services to vulnerable people would be treated as a priority.</p>

Agenda item	<u>Quarterly Performance & Finance Report</u>
Decision reference	16 (10/11)
Summary of Discussion	<p>The Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources presented a report on the council's latest performance, risk and financial position in relation to the eight priorities of the revised Corporate Plan 2011-2013.</p> <p>Members were advised that the revised approach to performance reporting incorporated the council's financial position as both were closely linked. Dealing with limited resources needed to be demonstrated to inform Island residents of what was being returned.</p> <p>It was noted that the under-spend of £787,000 for the previous year was added to the General Fund balance at the year end.</p> <p>Areas which continued to face pressures included Adult Social Care and Childrens Placements, although these were being offset by savings.</p>

	<p>Any additional savings would need to be imbedded in reserves for the following year and these would be rolled over for the duration of the four year period. It was noted that there could not be a return to previous levels of expenditure as a result of any savings.</p> <p>With regard to Social Care, it was noted that members of staff had risen to the challenge under difficult circumstances which had included re-deployment for some.</p> <p>On the area of Housing and Homelessness, national pressures could impact on demand for local needs for additional homes, although the council was prepared as best as possible for such eventualities.</p> <p>Members were advised that the issue of School Exclusions was being taken very seriously and a separate report would be brought to the Cabinet meeting in October 2011 addressing concerns.</p> <p>With regard to the Highways PFI, it was noted that the project was progressing well, had reached the next stage and was also within budget with no major risks identified</p> <p>Members were advised that a more in depth report was anticipated on the Waste Strategy following Quarter Two.</p>
<p>Issues raised by other members</p>	<p>On the area of waste collection and in particular those involving the use of wheelie bins, consultation was expected to begin in September 2011.</p>
<p>Decision taken</p>	<p>THAT the following be agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. THAT Cabinet accept the Quarter 1 performance report and continue to rigorously hold officers to account regarding performance of the corporate priorities throughout the year. ii. THAT the Council continues to focus on the achievement of savings in 2011/12 and on maintaining strict budgetary control to ensure that the overall budget is not exceeded, and that the Budget Review report to Full Council on 21 September 2011 sets out the initial areas for achieving savings in 2012/13 and future years in delivering a sustainable budget strategy. iii. THAT a report be brought before Cabinet on 4 October 2011 regarding actions being taken by schools to

	<p>address persistent absence and exclusions within the new two-tier school system.</p> <p>iv. THAT a report on the implementation of the Recruitment and Retention Strategy for Children's Social Care and the impact on performance be brought before Cabinet on 4 October 2011.</p>
Reason for the decision and corporate objective it aligns with	<p>To support all of the Sustainable Community Strategy themes and eight council priorities as outlined in the Isle of Wight Council's Corporate Plan 2011-2013.</p> <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	There were no other options to consider.
Declarations of Interests	None declared

Agenda item	<u>Proposed Changes To Home To Education Transport Policy</u>
Decision reference	17 (10/11)
Summary of Discussion	<p>The Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources presented a report which advised on the outcomes of the recent consultations regarding possible changes to the provision of a subsidy for post 16 transport and the discretionary element of denominational school transport.</p> <p>The Cabinet was requested to note the outcomes of the discussions and consider adopting a revised approach, which would include a wider review of the provision of transport for education, into a new home to education transport policy.</p> <p>Members were reminded that an extensive consultation exercise had taken place and consultee's included the Islands Youth Council, Teaching staff, Governing Bodies, Town and Parish Councils as well as general members of the public.</p> <p>There were also public events at various Island Schools and the Islands College and letters had also been written to affected parents.</p> <p>Following responses to this consultation, it was felt that in light</p>

	<p>of the concerns raised and the lack of confidence received, a further period of representation was proposed, taking into account issues raised and seeking views on a clearer policy position.</p> <p>It was noted that the continuation of the current arrangements with regard to denominational transport would not be proposed in the revised policy and elements of current discretionary transport would be subject to removal should the revised policy be adopted.</p> <p>With regard to Island pupils over the age of 16, the Leader of the Council along with the Cabinet Member for Childrens Services and Education as well as the Head of Learning and Achievement, visited the Isle of Wight College. Following discussions which included the shared belief that the Islands young people “Not in Education, Employment, or Training” (NEET) figures needed to be as low as possible, a proposal to not fully scrap the termly bus pass, but increase the price from £27.50 to £50 with effect from 1 September 2011, was made.</p> <p>With regard to the legal implications of the proposals, members were advised that the council was not in breach of any human rights laws as any such mandate did not give parents an absolute right to a faith education or to have free home to school transport provided for them if they choose to send their children to a faith school</p> <p>Members were of the opinion that as a result of a full consultation exercise, the council had listened to and acted on the feedback received.</p> <p>The outcome of the further period of representation would be presented to Cabinet for a final decision in December 2011.</p> <p>It was noted that there was a small typographical error on the third line of page C 11 (Legal Implications) where it should have read “avoidance <i>of</i> unreasonable public expenditure.</p>
Issues raised by other members	None
Decision taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. THAT the outcomes of the recent consultations regarding possible changes to the provision of a subsidy for post 16 transport and the discretionary element of denominational school transport be noted ii. THAT a further period of representation taking place, from Tuesday 6 September to 14 October 2011, regarding the proposed new home to education transport policy (as set out in Appendix B of the report) be agreed

	<p>iii. THAT the outcome of the further period of representation process be taken to Cabinet for decision in December 2011.</p> <p>iv. THAT the Increase in termly bus passes for post 16 students to £50 with effect from September 2011 be agreed</p>
Reason for the decision and corporate objective it aligns with	<p>To extend the period of representation until 14 October 2011, regarding the new home to education transport policy.</p> <p>To ensure that costs are kept within the available budget whilst still providing the statutory requirements of providing free home to education transport for Island pupils.</p> <p>To align with the following corporate theme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A healthy and supportive Island
Options considered and rejected	<p>Option 3 – to agree to leave the existing policy (2005) in place and continue the additional provision for those who attend faith schools and the additional Government requirement with regard to those from low income families.</p> <p>Option 4 – to agree to provide free transport for all home to education journeys irrespective of whether they is a statutory requirement to do so.</p> <p>Option 6 – to agree to leave the termly bus pass for post 16 students at its current level</p> <p>Option 7 – to agree to cease to provide the termly bus pass for post 16 students</p>
Declarations of Interests	None declared

Agenda item	<u>Proposals For Improving Provision For Children And Young People With Special Educational Needs And Disabilities</u>
Decision reference	18 (10/11)
Summary of Discussion	<p>The Cabinet Member for Childrens Services and Education comprehensively presented a report which provided information on the outcome of the consultation on the Isle of Wight review of provision for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) 2011.</p> <p>The report also made recommendations on the future provision and procedures for accessing support and services</p>

	<p>to enable more children and young people to receive timely and appropriate provision in their local communities.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member also reiterated the councils commitment to improving the outcomes for children and young people who required additional support to access learning</p> <p>It was noted that the annual figure for pupils who were in independent placements on the mainland had been reduced to 32 (although many of these were for social care rather than educational reasons).</p> <p>The Cabinet Member acknowledged that the performance of children with SEND at age 11 (Key Stage 2) in securing a level 4 in both English and Mathematics on the Island had been consistently below the national average. However, it was anticipated that as a result of the schools reorganisation, SEND children would be offered equal opportunities and an improvement was expected to take place within this area.</p>
<p>Issues raised by other members</p>	<p>Members were assured that measures would be established and subsequently monitored and scrutinised by the relevant scrutiny panels with the necessary support and training made available to staff within individual schools should it be required.</p> <p>Members were also reminded that the funding involved was Government sourced, although the council did provide some supplemental expenditure.</p> <p>The Action Plan would also be addressed in a prompt manner although it could be subject to change following the government review of school funding where monies may be sent directly to schools.</p>
<p>Decision taken</p>	<p>Option 1</p> <p>i. THAT the recommendations of the SEND review be endorsed.</p> <p>ii. THAT the Action Plan for implementing the recommendations of the SEND be agreed.</p>
<p>Reason for the decision and corporate objective it aligns with</p>	<p>To raise standards for all children and close the gap in performance between children who have special educational needs and those who do not.</p> <p>To support children to learn within their communities, amongst their peers wherever possible.</p> <p>To align with the following corporate themes:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A healthy and supportive Island • A safe and well-kept Island
Options considered and rejected	<p>Option 2 – To endorse the recommendations out lined in the SEND review but suggest amendments to the action plan for implementing them.</p> <p>Option 3 – To reject the recommendations of the SEND review.</p>
Declarations of Interests	Cllr Dave Stewart declared a personal interest as he had a relative who worked within Special Educational Needs at an Island School as well being a member of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel.

Agenda item	<u>Children's Social Care – Report On OFSTED Inspection Of June 2011</u>
Decision reference	19 (10/11)
Summary of Discussion	<p>The Cabinet Member for Childrens Services and Education presented a report which outlined the key improvements identified by inspectors since the unannounced inspection undertaken in June 2011. The paper also included the Post-Ofsted Action Plan which addressed the areas of weaknesses identified by the inspection.</p> <p>Members were advised that whilst the overall results of the inspection were highly encouraging and no major risks had been identified, the council would not be complacent. Regular scrutiny would therefore take place as performance needed to be maintained.</p> <p>It was noted that one area which was in need of improvement was the work being undertaken to improve the quality of the Integrated Children's System (ICS). The inputting and retrieval of information remained difficult and time-consuming and a plan to purchase the most up to date version of ICS was progressing with a target date of September / October 2011 established.</p>
Issues raised by other members	It was noted that with regard to the ICS, prompt recording was needed on a system which was accessible to all, mitigating any risk of information not being to hand should a member of staff not be available.
Decision taken	Option 2 – THAT the action plan in its current form be agreed and that its implementation continues a-pace.
Reason for the decision and	To improve practices within the councils own contact, referral and assessment functions area of service.

corporate objective it aligns with	To align with the following corporate themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A healthy and supportive Island • A safe and well-kept Island
Options considered and rejected	Option 1 – To recommend changes to the plan
Declarations of Interests	None declared

Agenda item	<u>Consideration of the Forward Plan</u>
Decision reference	20 (10/11)
Amendments / Additions / Removals	Members reviewed the Forward Plan which covered the August to November 2011 period. Members were advised that the September to December 2011 Forward Plan would be published online on Thursday, 18 August 2011.
Declarations of Interests	None declared.

Agenda item	<u>Delegated Decisions</u>
Decision reference	21 (10/11)
Questions	The following Cabinet Member delegated decisions had been taken since the last meeting of the Cabinet on 21 June 2011: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23 June 2011 - Objections to The Isle of Wight Council (Various Streets, Totland) (Traffic Regulation) Order No 1 2011 – Cllr Giles • 4 July 2011 - Proposed Sale Of Glen Alva, 4 Arnold Road, Binstead – Cllr Brown • 7 July 2011 - Disposal of School Sites – Cllrs Cousins and Brown • 8 July 2011 - Former Whippingham Primary School - Approval of Purchaser and Financial Offer – Cllr Brown • 8 July 2011 - Adult and Community Learning Plan 2011/12 – Cllr Cousins • 12 July 2011 - Extending The Support To Community Libraries – Cllr Abraham

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 July 2011 - Confirmation of Article 4 Directions at Bembridge, Ryde, Ryde St John's, Sandown and Shanklin – Cllr Brown • 18 July 2011 - Second Carbon Management Plan 2010 – 2015 – Cllr Brown and Giles • 1 August 2011 - Extending The Support To Community Libraries To September 2011 – Cllr Abraham • 9 August 2011 - Objections to the Isle of Wight Council (Disabled Drivers' Street Parking Places) Order No 1 2011 – Cllr Giles • 9 August 2011 - Objections to the Isle of Wight Council (Various Streets, Ryde) (Traffic Regulation) Order No 1 2011 – Cllr Giles • 11 August 2011 - Interim Lettings Within Newport Harbour – Cllr Brown
Declarations of Interests	None declared.

Agenda item	<u>Members Question Time</u>
Decision reference	22 (10/11)
Questions	<p>No written questions were received from elected members.</p> <p>An oral question was put to the Cabinet by Cllr Dave Stewart who enquired about the status of the Community Libraries.</p> <p>The Leader of the Council responded by stating that the position was ongoing with an intention to be fully finalised ahead of the final handover date.</p> <p>A question was received from Cllr Julie Jones-Evans with regard to the progress of the Schools reorganisation.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Childrens Services responded by stating that everything was on target and all schools were ready to start the new term in September 2011.</p>
Declarations of Interests	None declared