



# Record of decision

**THE FOLLOWING DECISIONS WERE TAKEN ON TUESDAY, 17 NOVEMBER 2009 BY THE CABINET**

**THE CALL IN PERIOD FOR THESE DECISIONS EXPIRES AT 5.00 PM ON WEDNESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2009**

Members of the Cabinet who were present

Cllrs David Pugh (Chair), Peter Bingham, George Brown, Edward Giles, Tim Hunter-Henderson

Members also present (non voting)

Cllrs Reg Barry, Vanessa Churchman, Julie Jones-Evans, Geoff Lumley, Roger Mazillius

Apologies

Cllrs Dawn Cousins, Barry Abraham,

Confirmed as a true record of decisions taken .....  
**Leader of the Council**

<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Minutes of the Last Meeting</b>
<b>Decision reference</b>	<b>53/09</b>
<b>Decision Taken</b>	That the minutes of the meeting held on <a href="#">13 October</a> 2009 be agreed.
<b>Questions / Amendments</b>	None.

<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>
<b>Decision reference</b>	<b>54/09</b>
	Cllr Brown declared a personal interest in item 5 as he was a regular user of the free bus travel scheme before the hours of 9.30am and after 11.00pm
	Cllr Bingham declared a personal interest in item 5 as he was a user of the free bus travel scheme before the hours of 9.30am and after 11.00pm
	Cllr Giles declared a personal interest in item 5 as he was

	<p>an occasional user of the free bus travel scheme before the hours of 9.30am and after 11.00pm</p> <p>Cllr Hunter-Henderson declared a personal interest in item 5 as he would be eligible for the free bus travel scheme within the following month of the decision being made.</p>
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<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Public Question Time</b>
<b>Decision reference</b>	<b>55/09</b>
<b>Questions</b>	<p>Mrs Jill Wareham asked an oral question on the £1.22 Million overspend in Adult Services as outlined in Decision Reference 56/09 and its relation to the article in the Guardian Newspaper where the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Social Care, Public Health and Housing reported savings in the care of older people. The Cabinet Member would provide a written response.</p>

<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Medium Term Financial Strategy and Budget Strategy 2010/11- 2012/13 and Revised Budget Position 2009/10</b>
<b>Decision reference</b>	<b>56/09</b>
<b>Summary of Discussion</b>	<p>The Cabinet was presented with a report that outlined the updated position on the Council's Medium -Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) in the light of the years Revenue Budget and Capital Programme performance for the first six months as well as the overall economic climate, and the projections of resources available in order to meet spending plans and emerging pressures.</p> <p>Key elements of the report were discussed that included the maintaining and improving of core service delivery and performance, the maintaining of minimum levels of council tax increases and the investment up front in transformation, ICT, and property rationalisation to deliver long-term efficiency savings.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member was confident that the budget would be balanced although tough decisions would need to be made in order to achieve this. These included such areas as setting out a realistic Capital Programme, assuming a pay freeze for council employees (although the council would adhere to any national agreement) and ensuring that savings are achieved as set out in the report.</p> <p>The Cabinet member advised that the Corporate Plan that was originally scheduled to be presented at the meeting and referred to within both the report and the Transformation paper, would be submitted to the Full Council Meeting on</p>

	<p>Wednesday, 25 November 2009 in order to allow for full Member consultation before final approval at the meeting of the Cabinet on Tuesday, 8 December 2009.</p> <p>The Cabinet advised that all allowances for elected members would be determined by the Independent Remunerations Panel and not by the council.</p> <p>It was noted that paragraph 49 of the report should have a comma after the figure 3.9%.</p> <p>Cllr Lumley asked whether it was possible for a full Member briefing to be held prior to the budget presentation in February 2010 in order to provide a breakdown and explanation of the damping mechanism. The Cabinet Member agreed to the request and advised that a briefing would be beneficial in order to provide a clear breakdown of all figures as set out in both the MTFS and the Transformation report.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member advised that that the first round of Star Chamber had looked at alternative ways of delivering services in order to reduce costs within Childrens Placements.</p> <p>On the subject of Waste and Landfill, the Cabinet was advised that the contractor was being paid more to divert waste away from landfill.</p> <p>Cllr Reg Barry asked a question with regards to external funding of major projects. The Cabinet Member stated that the only schemes that had not been concluded were the Undercliff and Ryde Gateway projects. All other programmes were on course.</p>
<p><b>Decision taken</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. THAT the Council's overall financial position be noted</li> <li>ii. THAT the need to continue with strict budgetary control be endorsed</li> <li>iii. THAT the updated Medium-Term Financial Plan and consequent shortfall in resources set out in paragraph 41 be noted</li> <li>iv. THAT the overall approach to developing the Budget Strategy and Capital Programme for 2010/11 and future years be noted.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Reason for the decision and corporate objective it aligns with</b></p>	<p>To enable the council to plan the overall budget strategy effectively within available resources thus achieving a balanced budget within a proper legal framework.</p>

	<p>To assist the council in meeting its statutory duties in relation to provision of services and in any changes it introduces.</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>	None.
<b>Declarations of Interests</b>	None received

<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Transformation Programme</b>
<b>Decision reference</b>	<b>57/09</b>
<b>Summary of Discussion</b>	<p>The Cabinet was presented with a report that set out the progression of the Transformation Programme from the “Start-up” phase to the “Implementation” phase.</p> <p>The programme would deal with many aspects of change, including the review of the 36 council owned buildings, some of which were not fit for purpose as well as improving the IT system.</p> <p>Every effort would be made to ensure that the planned reduction in 200 staff would be met by means of natural wastage without the need for compulsory job losses. It was agreed that figures would be supplied to help support the feasibility of the projected job loss figures at the same Full Member briefing that would also advise on the MTFS issues.</p> <p>With regards to the Business Systems Improvement Project (BSIP), the SAP system for finance had been implemented in April 2009 and no significant problems had been encountered.</p> <p>Members were advised that there were sufficient, competent officers in place to deliver the transformation programme and achieve the projected savings over the three year period.</p>
<b>Decision taken</b>	THAT the Transformation Programme be approved to the full implementation phase against the proposed scope, timescales, budget and savings profile.
<b>Reason for the</b>	To support the council in contributing to all 4 Eco-Island

<p><b>decision and corporate objective it aligns with</b></p>	<p>Sustainable Community Strategy themes through an integrated approach to service design, changing the way the council works, focusing on workforce development and the management of council assets.</p> <p>To support the council in delivering the theme “Improving Council Services” as defined by the proposed Corporate Plan.</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>
<p><b>Options considered and rejected</b></p>	<p>Option (b) - Do not approve the progression of the Transformation Programme to the next phase and implement a series of cuts to achieve the savings required over the next 3 years</p>
<p><b>Declarations of Interests</b></p>	<p>None declared.</p>

<p><b>Agenda item</b></p>	<p><b>2010 -11 Concessionary Fares Scheme</b></p>
<p><b>Decision reference</b></p>	<p><b>58/09</b></p>
<p><b>Summary of Discussion</b></p>	<p>The Cabinet was presented with a report that set out to determine what additional travel concessions, if any, the Isle of Wight Council would fund in 2010/11 to supplement the English National Concessionary Fares Scheme as well as determine and implement the Concessionary Fares Scheme reimbursement arrangements.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member advised that whilst this was a national scheme, the government only funded a proportion of the cost with the shortfall in funding falling to the Council. As a consequence the Council was compelled to review the discretionary elements of the concessionary fares scheme as it could no longer afford to continue to fund all of the non statutory concessions which it had done previously. To do so would mean significant cuts elsewhere.</p> <p>Members were assured that the proposals still exceeded the council’s statutory duties.</p> <p>Concerns with regards to pensioners having to pay for bus travel before 9.30 am in order to attend medical appointments were acknowledged, but the Cabinet was of the opinion that most appointments could be made within</p>

	the free travel period.
<b>Decision taken</b>	<p>i. <u>Discretionary Travel Concessions</u></p> <p>THAT provision of funding be made to support the statutory element of the concessionary fares scheme to all eligible persons from 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011 and to supplement the statutory scheme to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Free bus and rail travel during peak and off peak periods for Island residents suffering severe and enduring mental health problems and for assistants travelling with those residents who would otherwise be unable to access public transport; and</li> <li>b) Free rail travel on the Isle of Wight to eligible Island residents only, during off peak travel periods</li> <li>c) Free bus travel in off peak periods to those assisting eligible Island residents who through physical disability would otherwise be unable to access public transport.</li> <li>d) Free bus travel for Island residents eligible through physical disability and for assistants travelling with those residents who would otherwise be unable to access public transport during peak travel periods</li> </ul> <p>ii. <u>Reimbursement to Passenger Transport Operators</u></p> <p>THAT authority be delegated to the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, to determine and implement the Concessionary Fares Scheme and Student Rider Scheme reimbursement arrangements for the 2010 / 2011 financial year.</p>
<b>Reason for the decision and corporate objective it aligns with</b>	<p>To contribute to the Island's Local Area Agreement target to increase access to services and facilities by public transport, walking and cycling as well as contributing to one of the Islands priorities of creating wealth and reducing our carbon footprint at the same time.</p> <p>To enable the council to make savings of £280,000 per year whilst still meeting its statutory duties.</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> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An Inspiring Island</li> </ul>
<b>Options considered and rejected</b>	<p>i. <u>Discretionary Travel Concessions</u></p> <p>Option e) - To fund free bus travel for both eligible Island residents and eligible non-residents during peak travel periods (before 09:30 and after 23:00 Monday to Friday).</p> <p>ii. <u>Reimbursement to Passenger Transport Operators</u></p> <p>Maintain the current year reimbursement rate of 43.6%.</p>
<b>Declarations of Interests</b>	As per Decision Reference 54/09

<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Consideration of the Forward Plan</b>
<b>Decision reference</b>	<b>59/09</b>
<b>Amendments / Additions / Removals</b>	<p>The Forward Plan for December 2009 to March 2010 was reviewed and the following points were raised:</p> <p>Out of the twelve new entries on the plan the four proposals to raise the upper age limit for Brading, St Helens, Yarmouth and Shalfleet Primary Schools to be decided via delegated decision were included.</p> <p>It was noted that the decision on the future of Island Theatres would now be taken at the meeting of the Cabinet on Tuesday, 19 January 2010. This was in order to allow time for further preparation of the report and consultation between relevant stakeholders. It was also noted that the relevant town and parish councils were aware that closure may happen if no viable alternative could be found.</p> <p>The Chairman advised that the Cabinet meeting on Tuesday, 2 February 2010 to address the Budget, may, subject to consultation with the other party leaders, be rescheduled for Tuesday, 9 February 2010.</p>
<b>Declarations of Interests</b>	None declared.

<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Delegated Decisions</b>
<b>Decision reference</b>	<b>60/09</b>
<b>Questions</b>	Members were advised that the delegated decision on Telephone Masts on Council Owned Property had been signed by the Cabinet Member for Resources and the Cabinet Member for Fire and Community safety on

	Tuesday, 10 November 2009 and was subject to a Call In by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
<b>Declarations of Interests</b>	None declared.

<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Members Question Time</b>
<b>Decision reference</b>	<b>61/09</b>
<b>Questions</b>	No questions received.
<b>Declarations of Interests</b>	None declared.