



Record of decision

The following decisions were taken on **MONDAY, 24 NOVEMBER 2008** by the **CABINET**

THE CALL PERIOD FOR THESE DECISIONS EXPIRES AT 5.00PM ON WEDNESDAY, 3 DECEMBER 2008

Members of the Cabinet who were present:

Cllrs David Pugh (Chairman), Barry Abraham, George Brown, Tim Hunter-Henderson, Diana Tuson, Alan Wells

Apologies: Cllr Dawn Cousins

Confirmed as a true record of decisions taken

Leader of the Council

Agenda Item	Minutes of the Last Meeting
Decision Reference	63/08
Decision Taken	The minutes of the meeting held on 21 October 2008 were agreed.
Questions/Amendments	None

Agenda Item	Public Question Time
Decision Reference	64/08
Questions	<p>Mr Jonathan Bacon of St Helens asked a question about school organisation and the proposed independent panel. The Leader provided a response.</p> <p>Mr Dave Miller of Cowes asked a question about alternative allocation of middle and primary school sites in Cowes and the number of transitions a child would need to undertake. The Leader provided a response.</p> <p>Mr Steve Stubbings asked a question about the risk of improvements in educational standards being eradicated. The Leader provided a response.</p> <p>Mr James Pickett of Arreton asked a question about the</p>

	<p>consultation for school organisation. The Leader provided a response.</p> <p>Mrs Ellen McVicar of Binstead asked a question about frequent concerns raised at public meetings regarding school organisation. The Leader provided a response.</p> <p>Mr Chris Welsford, Chairman of Standards-Not-Tiers, asked a question about options for school organisation in Ventnor. The Leader provided a response.</p>
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Agenda Item	School Organisation
Decision Reference	65/08
Summary of Discussion	<p>The Leader introduced the report and explained that amended recommendations had been circulated, along with amended school by school recommendations (Appendix Q of the report). Each recommendation was considered in turn, with the Leader providing a comprehensive explanation for each and accepting questions from both Cabinet and other Member colleagues prior to the vote on each recommendation being taken.</p> <p>Cllr Brown asked a question about the structure proposals regarding engineering subjects and mathematics; and whether the sustainability of buildings would be considered in the specifications for modernisation and rebuild of schools. The Leader provided responses.</p> <p>Cllr Joyce asked about the criticism which had been received in the past about lack of collaboration between the High Schools and how this would be dealt with; about the level of response to consultation; about schools with less than one form entry and why consultants were being engaged to look at Nettelstone and Yarmouth; about an area where the move from three to two tier had not been successful in raising educational achievement; why the area of East Wight had altered; about travel to Nettlestone if St Helens school closed; and requested clarification about pre-school use of school buildings where the schools were closing. The Leader provided responses.</p> <p>Cllr Burt asked whether local members would be able to give evidence to the Independent Panel being set up. The Leader provided a response.</p>

	<p>Cllr Arnold asked why Chale school was not to be considered by the Independent Panel; and raised concern about children who potentially move from a middle school back to a primary school. The Leader provided responses.</p> <p>Cllr Churchman asked who would represent the views of Bembridge South; and about the impact of the view from the Diocese of Portsmouth on the Island's education system. The Leader provided responses.</p> <p>Cllr Stephens raised concerns about the amount of square footage per pupil for the primary schools transferring to the existing middle school sites in the Ryde area. The Leader provided a response and stated that Cllr Stephens would be sent the details of the changes proposed in Ryde.</p> <p>Cllr Abraham requested that a simple document setting out the timeline and changes be made available for parents. The Leader agreed for this to be done.</p>
<p>Decision Taken</p>	<p>1. THAT the proposals as formally consulted upon from 23 June to 10 October 2008, subject to the detailed school by school proposals as set out in Appendix 1 to this record of decision, be proceeded with.</p> <p>2. THAT the following policy decisions in respect of a new system of school organisation be adopted and implemented at the earliest from 1 September 2010:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The establishment of a new primary (4-11 age range) and secondary (11-19 age range) system of school organisation. • To establish the primary sector by enlargement and/or amalgamation of schools and at establishment to have no schools below one form entry (30 pupils maximum in a year group) and no school larger than two form entry (60 pupils maximum in a year group). • To establish all community secondary schools as new schools and for them to be let by competition under the Education and Inspections Act 2006. • Where waiver is not granted to new primary schools to establish them by competition under the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

3. THAT the Authority does not seek to be a 'proposer' for any of the schools let by competition (this should allow the Authority to adjudicate the award).

4. THAT in respect of those schools and communities where there has been a significant response and concern raised to the proposals at the formal consultation stage a review panel be established of three educational professionals who have direct experience of school organisation and who have had no involvement so far with the local process. The panel will work to a remit (as provisionally drafted in [Appendix 2](#) of this record of decision) that the Director for Children and Young People (in consultation with the Leader) shall finalise. The panel will review the Council's proposal, consult with the community and provide the Project Director for School Organisation, by 28th February 2009, with a report and recommendations to enable a paper to be prepared for decision at the March 2009 Cabinet meeting.

5. THAT recommendations in respect of individual schools, as amended at the meeting with a final approved list and as attached at Appendix 1 to this record of decision, be approved.

6. THAT the transition and the next stages timeline, as provided in [Appendices 3](#) and [4](#) attached to this record of decision, be approved.

7. THAT the Director for Children and Young People be authorised (in consultation with the Leader) to approve and publish the specifications for those schools to be let by competition.

8. THAT the Director for Children and Young People be authorised (in consultation with the Leader) to approve and publish the statutory notices for all schools for which a decision has been made.

9. THAT officers prepare appropriate pre-school and child care contracts for the new school organisation in line with the decisions for each school in resolution 5 above. Where a school is to be discontinued in a community with numbers of children that would make pre-school provision viable that officers bring forward plans for extended service provision linked to these pre-schools.

10. THAT officers be authorised to provide a full

	<p>business case analysis for the provision of an appropriate home to school transport system, which will include an escorted primary lift, to the March 2009 Cabinet meeting for decision.</p> <p>11. THAT the outline submission for the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme, as attached at Appendix 5 to this decision notice, be approved and that the Director for Children and Young People be authorised (in consultation with the Leader) to approve the detailed final submission.</p>
Reason for the decision and corporate objective it aligns with	<p>To raise standards of education on the Island, and improve outcomes for children and young people.</p> <p>To be a high performing cost effective Council.</p>
Options considered and rejected	<p>Option A – The proposals as formally consulted upon from 23 June until 10 October be proceeded with in full.</p> <p>Option B – The proposals as formally consulted upon from 23 June until 10 October 2008 not be proceeded with and officers be required to carry out further work and/or further public consultation with a report to Cabinet in February 2009.</p>
Declarations of Interest	<p>Cllr Alan Wells declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item as he had family employed within the teaching profession on the Island. He left the room prior to public questions being asked and did not return until the agenda item had been concluded.</p> <p>Cllr Tuson declared a personal interest as a ward member and school governor.</p> <p>Cllr Abraham declared a personal interest as he had a son in the school system and was a school governor.</p>

Agenda Item	2009/10 Concessionary Fares Scheme
Decision Reference	66/08
Summary of Discussion	<p>The Leader allowed further public questions on this item prior to the discussion.</p> <p>Mr Don Vincent of the Bus Users Group asked about the under funding by central government of the concessionary fares scheme. Cllr Hunter-Henderson provided a response.</p> <p>Mr Clive Page queried the figures for people travelling</p>

	<p>to work on buses prior to 9.30am and asked whether Island Residents could enjoy the same additional travel benefits on the mainland as people from the mainland enjoyed on the Island. Cllr Hunter-Henderson provided a response.</p> <p>Cllr Hunter-Henderson introduced the report and provided a background for Members. He outlined the extended nature of the scheme presently available on the Island and recommended that this be continued.</p> <p>Cllr Hunter-Henderson explained that because of the success of the scheme there would need to be a change to reimbursement arrangements in line with Department of Transport guidelines, and set out the procedure for the alteration to the scheme and the threatened effect on the Student Rider scheme.</p> <p>Cllr Brown asked that it be noted that the decision on the concessionary fares scheme was being made in the knowledge of an extremely difficult financial period.</p>
<p>Decision Taken</p>	<p>1. THAT the concessions outlined in Options 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 in the report, in addition to the statutory minimum, be provided to all eligible persons from 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010. This decision to be reviewed annually or sooner if circumstances so dictate.</p> <p>These additional concessions are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To continue to fund free bus travel to eligible Island residents during peak travel periods (before 09:30 and after 23:00 Monday to Friday). • To continue to fund free bus travel to eligible non-Island residents during peak travel periods (before 09:30 and after 23:00 Monday to Friday). • To continue to fund free rail travel to eligible Island residents during peak and off peak travel periods. • To continue to fund free bus travel to those accompanying eligible Island and eligible non-Island residents for assistance purposes during peak and off peak travel periods. • To continue to fund free bus and rail travel during peak and off peak periods for eligible Island residents suffering severe and enduring mental illness. <p>2. THAT authority be delegated to the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, to</p>

	negotiate and amend the Concessionary Fares Scheme and Student Rider Scheme reimbursement arrangements for the 2009 / 2010 financial year.
Reason for the decision and corporate objective it aligns with	<p>To encourage travel on public transport to support the Eco Island objectives.</p> <p>To drive the sustainable regeneration and development of the Island.</p> <p>To improve the health and well being of Island communities.</p>
Options considered and rejected	<p>Option 1 – to provide no additional travel concessions.</p> <p>Option 7 – to continue to reimburse bus operators using the current reimbursement arrangements, to be determined by the Secretary of State.</p>
Declarations of Interest	Cllr Brown declared a personal interest as he was over 65 and travelled on buses.

Agenda item	Consideration of the Forward Plan
Decision reference	67/08
Questions	No questions were received.
Declarations of Interests	None declared.

Agenda item	Delegated Decisions
Decision reference	68/08
Questions	No questions were received.
Declarations of Interests	None declared.

Agenda item	Members Question Time
Decision reference	69/08
Questions	No questions were received.
Declarations of Interests	None declared.