



Record of decision

THE FOLLOWING DECISIONS WERE TAKEN ON TUESDAY, 27 JULY 2010 BY THE CABINET

THE CALL IN PERIOD FOR THESE DECISIONS EXPIRES AT 5.00 PM ON THURSDAY, 5 AUGUST 2010

Members of the Cabinet who were present

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

Members also present (non - voting)

Cllrs Geoff Lumley, Paul Fuller Chris Welsford

Confirmed as a true record of decisions taken

Leader of the Council

Agenda item	Minutes of the Last Meeting
Decision reference	19 (10/11)
Decision Taken	That the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 13 July 2010 be agreed
Questions / Amendments	None.

Agenda item	Declarations of Interest
Decision reference	20 (10/11)
	None declared

Agenda item	Public Question Time
Decision reference	21 (10/11)
Questions	Cllr Brown put a question to Cabinet on behalf of Ms Angela McMurtry of Cowes on whether the Isle of Wight Council had considered entering into a leasing agreement with the Northwood House Trustees for retaining the Registry Office at Northwood House.

	<p>Cllr Pugh responded by stating that ongoing maintenance problems at Northwood House had led to both access and health and safety concerns which meant that the facilities were not of an adequate standard for the Registrar's office to remain in place.</p> <p>Mr David Miller of Cowes put a question to the Cabinet around the issue of how many primary schools are introducing new uniforms, including where such changes result in two uniforms with a further change at year five.</p> <p>Cllr Pugh responded by stating that the governing body of each school decides on uniform policy or dress code and it would be the head teacher's responsibility to make sure that this is followed. Whilst the authority does not maintain a record of changes to individual schools' uniform, it must work with all governing bodies to ensure that admission arrangements which appear fair are not then undermined by other school policies, such as a requirement for expensive school uniform. If school uniform was to become a pressing issue at any Island school then the authority would take the appropriate action as required and allowed for by statute.</p> <p>Mr Miller asked a supplementary question with regard to new school buildings and their part in the school reorganisation.</p> <p>Cllr Pugh responded by stating that the Islands School reorganisation programme was never predicated on new school buildings being put in place.</p>
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Agenda item	Quarterly Performance & Strategic Risk Management Report - Quarter 1 2010/11
Decision reference	22 (10/11)
Summary of discussion	<p>The Cabinet Member presented a report which provided a synopsis of the council's performance and strategic risks for the first quarter of 2010/11 ending 30 June 2010 and included the identification of key performance achievements and issues for the council against the seven key priorities set out in the Corporate Plan 2009 -2013.</p> <p>It was noted that recommendation 4 of the report would be slightly amended to add the word "How" before sustainability.</p> <p>Cllr Mazillius advised members that the appointment of an Empty Homes Officer in June 2006 had enabled the council to bring a total of 741 homes back into active use.</p>

	<p>Cllr Cousins highlighted the good work that had been achieved for Island children around Targeted Intervention.</p> <p>Cllr Pugh stated that the under performance around temporary exclusions for all schools would need to be monitored and should no significant improvement be achieved, then a future Cabinet report would need to be considered.</p> <p>Cllr Giles updated members on the Highways Private Finance Initiative (PFI) programme and that the competitive dialogue stage was progressing well.</p> <p>Cllr Brown advised that the demise of the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) and the proposed introduction of Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP's) could provide new opportunities for the Island's economy.</p> <p>Cllr Abraham highlighted performance around Trading Standards where the number of businesses newly recruited to the service had once again exceeded target.</p>
<p>Issues Raised by Other Members</p>	<p>Cllr Welsford raised some issues around Highways and the terminology of the word "Target" being used in the area of people 'killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents'.</p> <p>Cllr Giles responded by stating that the terminology was one used by the Department for Transport.</p> <p>Cllr Welsford also asked about the progress of the gasification plant and the cost of the Ventnor Eco Toilets.</p> <p>Cllr Giles responded by stating that the gasification plants owner and operator, Energos and the councils waste contractor, Biffa were in discussions to make a financial contribution to landfill whilst the plant was not working to capacity. It was anticipated that by mid August 2010, the plant would be back up to full capacity. With regard to Ventnor Eco Toilets, Cllr Giles advised Cllr Welsford that the cost was in the region of £320,000, although this would be confirmed following the meeting.</p>
<p>Decision taken</p>	<p>Option A</p> <p>1) THAT Performance related to temporary exclusions (all Schools) be monitored owing to the trend being below target for quarter one and against the previous pattern demonstrated and that if actions to reverse the trend do not show a positive impact in quarter two, then a full report would be presented to Cabinet for consideration.</p>

	<p>2) THAT the Homelessness Team conduct a further trend analysis (for the last three months) on causes of homelessness for new cases accepted and determine whether full preventative measures can be identified and that monthly updates be provided to Cabinet Members by Directors. If performance had not improved then a full report would be presented to Cabinet for consideration.</p> <p>3) THAT the Local Infrastructure Plan (LIP) should be completed in line with the Homes and Community agency (HCA) guidelines and deadline (October 2010), to ensure the Council was in the best possible position to obtain grant funding for future affordable housing development projects and that a written report be presented to Cabinet in October 2010.</p> <p>4) THAT officers report back to Cabinet in September 2010, on how the local economy can be supported and how sustainability and reductions in carbon footprint can be better achieved through the procurement process.</p>
<p>Reason for decision and corporate themes it aligns with</p>	<p>To support all of 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"> • A thriving Island • A healthy and supportive Island • A safe and well-kept Island • An inspiring Island
<p>Options considered and rejected</p>	<p>Option B – to adjust and agree the recommendations set out under item 15.</p>
<p>Declarations of Interests</p>	<p>None received</p>

Agenda item	Children’s Social Care: Core Assessment Completion Rates, Personal Education Plan Completion Rates, Percentage Referrals To Social Care That Are Repeat Referrals Within 12 Months, and Percentage for Stability of Placements of Looked After Children: Length Of Placement.
Decision reference	23 (10/11)
Summary of Discussion	<p>The Cabinet Member presented to members a report which set out an action plan to address issues around inconsistency in the rate of completion of Core Assessments, the completion rate of Personal Education Plans (PEPs), the percentage referrals to social care that are repeat referrals within 12 months and the percentage for stability of placements of Looked After Children (LAC): length of placement.</p> <p>Cabinet was advised that the unannounced inspection of Contact Referral and Assessment Arrangements in Children’s Services had been received well and an action plan would address the areas for development that had been identified.</p>
Issues Raised by Other Members	No issues were raised
Decision taken	<p>THAT the completed action plan in relation to Core Assessment completion rates, PEP completion rates, percentage referrals to social care that are repeat referrals within 12 months, and percentage for stability of placements of Looked After Children (LAC): length of placement, be implemented.</p> <p>THAT the action plan be monitored to ensure corrective actions have been appropriately identified and enacted.</p>
Reason for the decision and corporate objective it aligns with	<p>To address the issue around major shortfalls in staffing over the previous two years and thus contribute to the council’s strategic aim in delivering better services.</p> <p>To increase the range of foster care situations to enable more children and young people to be cared for on Island.</p> <p>To align with the following Corporate themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A healthy and supportive Island • An inspiring Island
Options considered and rejected	Option b -To agree that an action plan is not necessary.

Declarations of Interests	None declared.
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Agenda item	Young People Not in Employment Education or Training (NEET)
Decision reference	24 (10/11)
Summary of Discussion	<p>The Cabinet Member presented a report which updated members on the current position regarding those young people who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) as well as outlining the need to seek approval for the updated NEET key actions.</p> <p>Members noted that feedback from young people actively seeking education, employment or training suggested that they would like to secure a job. It was further noted that the 10% increase in the number of Young Apprenticeships being taken by 14 -16 year olds which were in the care, hospitality, marine engineering and construction sectors in the previous year as well as the 16 plus modern apprenticeships being supported by the Council, had been a positive development with Ventnor Botanical Gardens and Branstone Farm cited as examples.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member advised that with regard to training young people, funding from Southampton University had been secured for part time PhD Scholarships.</p> <p>Cllr Abraham stated that the recent Medina High School awards highlighted the benefits of good training for young people.</p> <p>Cllr Pugh cited the new government vocational diploma initiatives which would provide opportunities for young people to partake in apprenticeship type schemes that would hopefully lead to meaningful full time employment.</p> <p>With regard to the Review of Real Opportunities Now (RON) and the desire from young people to extend the duration to three weeks, Cllr Mazillius requested if this could be investigated.</p> <p>The Strategic Director for Children and Young People responded by advising that the programme was very successful, but also expensive. This meant that in the current economic climate, careful targeting of the use of the programme was necessary. The idea of extending the programme would be explored, as would the potential for an</p>

	“add-on” element to the existing programme focusing on links to training or employment.
Issues Raised by Other Members	<p>Cllr Welsford requested confirmation as to whether there was any correlation between deprived areas and NEET children.</p> <p>The Strategic Director for Children and Young People agreed that such a connection was likely and that data to support the suggestion could be presented if required.</p>
Decision taken	THAT the key actions as set out in Section 23 of the report be approved.
Reason for the decision and corporate objective it aligns with	<p>To enable the authority meet the National Indicator set (NI 117), ensuring that percentage of 16 to 18 year olds who are NEET would be no greater than 5% by March 2011.</p> <p>To stop young people becoming NEET by motivating and engaging them as well as offer attractive learning options suited to their needs</p> <p>To improve outcomes for young people, create new opportunities to meet their needs and increase aspirations.</p> <p>To develop the resilience of young people to overcome the barriers to their employment and training.</p> <p>To align with the following corporate themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A healthy and supportive Island • An inspiring Island
Options considered and rejected	Option B) – Take no action
Declarations of Interests	None declared

Agenda item	Isle of Wight Council Strategic Asset Management Plan 2010
Decision reference	25 (10/11)
Summary of Discussion	<p>The Leader of the Council advised members that in light of the unfortunate resignation, on the grounds of health reasons, of Cllr Peter Bingham, the item would be presented by the Deputy Leader of the Council, Cllr George Brown.</p> <p>The Deputy Leader presented to members a report which sought approval on the councils’ Strategic Asset</p>

	<p>Management Plan (SAMP) 2010.</p> <p>The plan set out an agreed strategy which encompassed key outcomes; these included the unlocking of the full opportunities and value from the asset base, identifying and effectively disposing of surplus assets, ensuring retained assets are fit for purpose and enable effective service delivery ensuring that retained assets are cost effective and deliver value for money.</p> <p>Cabinet was advised that the council must address its property portfolio effectively and decide which buildings would provide the best value, retain them and decide on the most cost effective way of disposing of any properties which did not provide full value for money.</p> <p>It was noted that the full Capital Receipts programme listed as annex 3 of the report's appendix was not a commitment but more of a Forward Plan on how the council may decide to address property issues. No assumptions therefore should be made and any council property disposals would need to be sent through the usual procedures before a final decision was made.</p> <p>Cllrs Abraham and Mazillius stated that the plan was long overdue and there was a need to prioritise buildings. The good work achieved within the plan was also highlighted and the work contributed by the former Cabinet Member Cllr Bingham was commended.</p> <p>With regard to identifying a right time to sell, Cllr Brown stated that it could be seen that anytime would be the right time. Leaving buildings empty may not be economically viable and properties should therefore be sold as soon as their disposal was recognised and agreed.</p>
<p>Issues Raised by Other Members</p>	<p>Following a question raised by Cllr Welsford he was advised that the reason why the appendix and its annexes were not made available in hard copies to all members was due to the cost of printing and distributing the large amount of papers. Copies were therefore made available to Cabinet Members only. All information however was made available five clear working days on the council's website prior to the meeting.</p>
<p>Decision taken</p>	<p>THAT the Strategic Asset Management Plan 2010 be approved.</p>
<p>Reason for the decision and corporate objective</p>	<p>To align with all of the councils seven key strategic corporate priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering Better Services/Transformation

<p>it aligns with</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Reorganisation • Transforming Social Care • Roads PFI Scheme • Regeneration and the Economy • Fire Service Modernisation • Local Housing. <p>To assist planning the rationalisation of the Council's property portfolio, making the retained properties more fit for purpose whilst disposing of surplus assets and those no longer deemed appropriate for service delivery.</p> <p>To align with the following Corporate themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A thriving Island • A safe and well-kept Island
<p>Options considered and rejected</p>	<p>Option ii - Delay approval of the SAMP until all background data has been collected, all service reviews undertaken, all service property reviews have been undertaken and analysed and the SAMP has been rewritten to reflect these.</p> <p>Option ii - Do nothing and retain the 2009 SAMP.</p>
<p>Declarations of Interests</p>	<p>None declared.</p>

<p>Agenda item</p>	<p>Northwood House and Grounds</p>
<p>Decision reference</p>	<p>26 (10/11)</p>
<p>Summary of Discussion</p>	<p>The Leader of the Council presented a report which outlined the council's future involvement as custodian trustee of the Northwood House Charitable Trust as well as providing the rationale behind the cessation of the House for council offices and the relocation of the Registrars.</p> <p>It was noted that owing to the changing situation and in particular the managing trustees' letter of 15 June 2010, the item did not appear on the councils Forward Plan of Key Decisions and the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had been consulted and his comments incorporated into the report.</p> <p>The Leader highlighted many key aspects of the report including the setting up of the Trust Scheme in 2002, the officer decision with Cabinet Member approval of the relocation of the registrars department, the feasibility study into the options available for the future of the house and the events following the letter sent to the managing trustees on</p>

	<p>30 April 2010 outlining the direction of travel the council would take with regard to the properties future.</p> <p>Following publication of the Cabinet papers for the meeting, a response was received from the Trustees of Northwood House and included the following areas of concern:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inappropriate deadline to respond to draft Cabinet report prior to publishing • Legal issues I.e. - Compliance with Charity Law • Failure to provide proper and transparent accounts • Inappropriate use of Trust monies • Council Officer decision to move registrars <p>The Leader responded by stating that the council does not accept that any legal breach was made and that all issues around trust monies was carried out appropriately. With regard to the moving of the registrars department, whilst it was made via an officer decision, it was overseen by the relevant Cabinet Member.</p> <p>Cllr Mazillius, whilst supporting the recommendation, did raise his concerns at some of the issues raised by the managing trustees and the possibility of any legal advice sought by them. It was therefore agreed to send a full response to the representations made in due course.</p> <p>Cllr Brown reminded members that in light of the difficult economic climate both nationally and locally, a decision on Northwood House had to be taken. Island residents would not look favourably on funding for Northwood House continuing whilst other areas were facing cuts.</p>
<p>Issues Raised by Other Members</p>	<p>Cllr Fuller stated that whilst the situation with regard to Northwood House was unfortunate, it had to be accepted that the council could not retain any building that would require significant investment to maintain it.</p>
<p>Decision taken</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) THAT the report be noted 2) THAT the Charity Commission be requested to amend the deed so that the council is no longer the custodian trustee. 3) THAT the council's right to use the house for council offices after 30 September be formally relinquished. 4) THAT a £50,000 grant is not available from the council at this time to assist the trust with their professional costs be confirmed.

	Cllr Brown abstained on resolution 2.
Reason for the decision and corporate objective it aligns with	To enable the council to make best use of its assets and deliver services in a more cost effective way. To align with the following Corporate themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A thriving Island • A safe and well-kept Island
Options considered and rejected	Do nothing
Declarations of Interests	None declared

Agenda item	Consideration of the Forward Plan
Decision reference	27 (10/11)
Questions	No issues were highlighted
Declarations of Interest	None

Agenda item	Delegated Decisions
Decision reference	28 (10/11)
Questions	No issues were highlighted
Declarations of Interest	None