



# Record of decision

**THE FOLLOWING DECISIONS WERE TAKEN ON TUESDAY, 7 DECEMBER 2010 BY THE CABINET**

**THE CALL IN PERIOD FOR THESE DECISIONS EXPIRES AT 5.00 PM ON THURSDAY, 16 DECEMBER 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 Jonathan Bacon, Reg Barry, Vanessa Churchman, Rodney Downer, Stuart Dyer, David Knowles, Julie Jones-Evans, Geoff Lumley, John Hobart, Richard Hollis, John Howe, Susan Scoccia, Ian Stephens, Arthur Taylor, Chris Welsford, Margaret Webster

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Confirmed as a true record of decisions taken .....

**Leader of the Council**

<b>Agenda item</b>	<a href="#"><u>Minutes of the Last Meeting</u></a>
<b>Decision reference</b>	<b>48 (10/11)</b>
<b>Decision Taken</b>	THAT the minutes of the meeting held on <a href="#"><u>12 October 2010</u></a> be agreed.
<b>Questions / Amendments</b>	None.

<b>Agenda item</b>	<a href="#"><u>Declarations of Interest</u></a>
<b>Decision reference</b>	<b>49 (10/11)</b>
	Cllr Mazillius declared a personal interest in Paper C, paragraphs 26 and 27 as his son worked for an architectural surveillance company which had and may in the future supply services to the council.
	Cllr Pugh declared a personal interest in Paper C paragraph 23 as his partner worked in the council's pensions department.

<b>Agenda item</b>	<b><u>Public Question Time</u></b>
<b>Decision reference</b>	<b>50 (10/11)</b>
<b>Questions</b>	<p>Mr Mark Chiverton of Ryde and the branch secretary of UNISON put a written question to the Cabinet on the impact that the proposed budget cuts package to be considered by the Cabinet would have on the economy of the Isle of Wight, given the high number of private sector jobs which were dependant on Local Government services and particularly bearing in mind the very high level of long term unemployment on the Island</p> <p>The Leader of the Council responded by stating that a letter had been sent to and received by Mr Chiverton as the local Branch Secretary of UNISON in response to a letter sent by Mr Chiverton to the Leader over the concerns raised by the proposed budget cuts. The Leader then provided a summary of the response letter and stated that The Isle of Wight Council could not escape having to make difficult decisions in the current economic climate. It was noted that representations to central government over the consequences of the Comprehensive Spending Review settlement with the local M.P. and, in particular, with key Ministers in the Coalition Government would be made, but would need to be pragmatic and that clear and well reasoned arguments would also need to be submitted. It was further noted that the council would work with the Local Government Association and that any involvement with UNISON would also be welcomed by the Cabinet.</p> <p>Mrs Lesley Ball of Ryde and representing the Waterside (Swimming Pool) Action Group put a written question to Cabinet on whether a 90 day consultation period before closure could be granted.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded by stating that there would be sufficient time to allow such a period of consultation and that furthermore the council would be able to provide officer assistance should it be required.</p> <p>Robin Siverpalen of Ryde asked an oral question over the concerns on the Islands level of unemployment and enquired how the loss of 500 jobs from the council could be recovered elsewhere on the Island.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded by stating the councils involvement with the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) would help in creating jobs in such areas as renewable energy (Marine and Vestas research and development) and in affordable housing projects such as Pan Meadows.</p> <p>An Island resident asked on oral question over concerns with regard to the money saved on the Capitalisation Fund of £200 million set aside to help fund redundancies and restructuring and enquired whether or not such money would be better spent on securing jobs.</p>

	The Leader of the Council responded by advising such funds were from central government and that the council were not yet in a position to gain access to it.
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<b>Agenda item</b>	<a href="#"><u>Medium-Term Budget Strategy 2011/12 – 2014/15</u></a>
<b>Decision reference</b>	<b>51 (10/11)</b>
<b>Summary of discussion</b>	<p>The Cabinet Member presented to members a report which followed the Budget Reviews that went to Cabinet and full Council in July and September of 2010 and which also provided an update on the budget position for the 2010/11 financial year and the financial position facing the Council over the next four financial years in the light of the Comprehensive Spending Review of October 2010.</p> <p>The Leader of the Council outlined key areas of concern that needed to be addressed and advised that the overall projected overspend would be £6.340m. Contributing mostly to this was Adult Social Care where an overall overspend of some £3.927 million was predicted, caused in part by the Island's older demographic statistics.</p> <p>Another area was the parking income shortfall, which amounted to £1.188m.</p> <p>With the projected savings taken into account, an overspend of £1 million was still expected.</p>
<b>Issues Raised by Other Members</b>	<p>Concerns were raised by several members around the apparent unclear nature of certain aspects of Papers B and C, such as the future of Libraries and Connexions as well as where additional costs of £19.9 million would arise.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member advised that the level of detail and clarity in the papers presented was due to the forthcoming consultation process that would arise. More details would develop over the period. Additional anticipated costs would include money that would be taken back from central government (damping), although this could be an area over which the council could lobby central government.</p> <p>Other concerns included whether such a paper on the future of the council was appropriate for Cabinet and should therefore be seen as a budget issue which would need approval from full Council.</p> <p>The Leader advised that the proposals set out were not for final decision but for beginning the processes, such as consultation, of responding to cuts in government funding, which the council had a duty to do. Any budget setting would, as always, be agreed by all elected members of the council.</p> <p>It was further noted that there were concerns over car parking shortfalls, although the Cabinet Member stated that whilst many</p>

	<p>other Local Authorities had recorded losses in this area, the Isle of Wight Council were ahead when compared to the same time the previous year, although the Cabinet did concede that the £50 resident annual permit introduced in 2005 was not, in hindsight, realistic.</p> <p>Members also asked for some clarity over the issues of freezing salaries and were advised that all council employees were subject to national agreements and that those employees who earned under a set amount would receive an annual increase. However, some senior staff had agreed to a reduction in salaries whilst others would take on more responsibilities at no extra cost.</p> <p>It was noted that the option iv would be amended to read “note the financial position facing the council as set out in the report”.</p>
<b>Decision taken</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. THAT the increase in fees and charges effective from 4 January 2011 in line with the overall framework set out in Appendix 2 of the report be agreed.</li> <li>ii. THAT immediate action needed to set the direction and scope of the measures to be taken in addressing the financial position and that savings proposals of £25m covering the next two financial years be worked up to do this be agreed.</li> <li>iii. THAT the actions taken to date to contain budget pressures in the current financial year and to re-affirm the need to minimise the overall overspend be noted.</li> <li>iv. THAT the financial position facing the Council as set out in the report be noted</li> <li>v. THAT proposal's for the achievement of the £25m target and the measures necessary to achieve a financially and legally sound budget for 2011/12 which are set out in the report of the Chief Executive on the Future Shape and Direction of the Council Organisation be noted.</li> </ol>
<b>Reason for decision and corporate themes it aligns with</b>	<p>To manage in-year budget pressures and minimise any overspends by reducing non-essential spend and ensuring that major categories of spend are controlled</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>
<b>Options considered and rejected</b>	<p>There is no other option other than to set in place appropriate measures to ensure that a financially and legally balanced budget is achieved for 2011/12.</p>
<b>Declarations of</b>	<p>None declared.</p>

<b>Interests</b>	
<b>Agenda item</b>	<a href="#"><u>Council Organisation: Future Shape And Direction</u></a>
<b>Decision reference</b>	<b>52 (10/11)</b>
<b>Summary of Discussion</b>	<p>Cabinet was presented with a report, by the Chief Executive of the Isle of Wight Council, which set out the proposed future shape and direction for the services which the Isle of Wight Council would provide and secure from April 2011 onwards.</p> <p>It was noted that it was the duty of the Chief Executive and the Section 151 Officer to put forward options to the Cabinet which would address the deficit that the council needed to reduce.</p> <p>The Leader of the council advised that scrutiny of various issues had already been taken into account and further scrutiny as well as wider consultation would take place and add an important aspect to the development of the proposals within the report.</p> <p>Cabinet was advised that the proposed reductions if implemented were expected to provide a full year saving of £18.37m in 2011/12 and £22.439m in 2012/13.</p>
<b>Issues Raised by Other Members</b>	<p>Concerns were raised that the recommendations being put forward were based on assumptions made prior to the budget in February 2011. The Leader of the council responded by stressing that the recommendations being put forward were to prepare for responding to government cuts and not finalise any decisions.</p> <p>Members also raised issues over sharing services with both Portsmouth and Southampton councils, fearing that it could be the start of an amalgamation which would see the Island being governed on the mainland.</p> <p>The Leader of the Council assured members that whilst some back office functions and services could be managed from the mainland, the Isle of Wight Council would remain on the Island and retain its unitary status.</p> <p>Members were also advised that whilst the sharing of a Chief Executive, as demonstrated by some other authorities, could be an option to be explored at some stage in the future, it was not considered to be a viable option owing to the major challenges the council faced for foreseeable period.</p> <p>The issue of funding for Supporting People was also raised. The Leader of the Council advised that this would be an area that could be affected and member briefings would be set up if necessary. The Cabinet Member also advised that there would be shift to supporting families.</p> <p>On the area of the Solent LEP, members were assured that</p>

	<p>everything would be done to secure monies and that the Isle of Wight Council must be a part of the LEP in order to receive funding.</p> <p>Members expressed concerns over the proposed closures of Tourist Information Centres. The Leader of the Council responded by advising that this area had changed over time with the increased use of the internet and that the possibility of exploring alternative methods should not be discounted.</p> <p>On the area of ceasing the provision of Beach Lifeguards, concerns were raised that lives could be lost as a result. The Cabinet Member responded by stating it was not a mandatory responsibility of the council to provide such a service and that the provision could be supplied by Local and Parish councils and the RNLI and that meetings involving all concerned parties should be set up.</p> <p>Members from the Ryde and surrounding wards all expressed concerns over the closure of the Waterside Pool in Ryde with many emails and letters being received from residents. It was noted that a request to look at the possibility of joint funding could be explored.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member responded by stating whilst all possibilities would be considered, timing was important, and a quick settlement was needed.</p> <p>On the area of the review of public toilets, concerns were raised by members over the short time period proposed and the change of the review from February 2011 to December 2010.</p>
<p><b>Decision taken</b></p>	<p>THAT Cabinet agreed to the following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The principles in paragraph 9 of the Cabinet Report - Council Organisation: Future Shape and Direction with regard to defining the future shape and direction of the organisation be adopted</li> <li>ii. The Chief Executive prepares, for consultation with staff, a revised management structure (with changes at all levels) the outcome of which is subject to a Cabinet Member delegated decision by the Leader and will achieve the projected £7.25m savings (full year effect) in management and specialist staff costs (paragraph 21 of the Cabinet Report - Council Organisation: Future Shape and Direction), and £6.475m in 2011/12. This structure should be sufficiently flexible to allow for future opportunities of joint working with the police (public protection); health (joint commissioning) and Portsmouth and Southampton local authorities (specialist services) and the voluntary and community sectors.</li> <li>iii. As part of the revised organisational structure the Chief Executive ensures that the 2010/11 funding for supporting people is linked with, as appropriate, new Early Intervention Grant and aspects of social care funding to ensure that the</li> </ul>

support for vulnerable families is used in an effective and coherent way so that any unnecessary duplication and management costs are reduced (paragraphs 41 and 49 of the Cabinet Report - Council Organisation: Future Shape and Direction).

- iv. The Transformation Programme is now absorbed into the wider restructure of the organisation and the logistical and procurement savings requirement from the project (£4.75m by March 2012) are secured (paragraphs 22, 23, 24, 26 and 27 refer in the Cabinet Report - Council Organisation: Future Shape and Direction).
- v. The spend on economic development activity is increased by £100,000 for 2011/12 and this is built into the budget planning for 2011/12.
- vi. The previously identified investment in children's social care is maintained in the 2011/12 budget but that regular progress reports are received by Cabinet to be assured that the necessary improvements are being achieved (paragraph 47 of the Cabinet Report - Council Organisation: Future Shape and Direction ).

#### **Suspension of Council Procedure Rule 22**

The Chairman drew Members of the Cabinets attention to the time and proposed an extension to the meeting of up to one hour. The proposal was seconded and following the vote it was

#### **RESOLVED:**

THAT the meeting be extended for up to one hour.

- vii. Tourist Information Centres are closed with effect from 31 March 2011 (saving £175,000 in 2011/12 and £200,000 in a full year (2012/13) and discussions continue with the tourist industry as to how relevant information can be made available through alternative means (paragraph 30 of the Cabinet Report - Council Organisation: Future Shape and Direction).
- viii. The provision of beach lifeguards is ceased with annual savings of £100,000 (paragraph 33 of the Cabinet Report - Council Organisation: Future Shape and Direction).
- ix. Subject to a forthcoming Cabinet Member delegated decision, an invitation for proposals to be brought forward for Waterside Pool will be launched. Unless a viable proposal, at nil longer-term cost to the Council, is under active consideration at the time of the budget setting process in

February 2011, a recommendation will be made to remove the £250,000 annual operating subsidy from 2011/12 onwards, leading to its closure with effect from 31 March 2011 (paragraph 32 of the Cabinet Report - Council Organisation: Future Shape and Direction).

- x. Wight Bus is ceased as from 31 August 2011 with a saving of £75,000 in 2011/12 and £150,000 in a full year (paragraph 35 of the Cabinet Report - Council Organisation: Future Shape and Direction).
- xi. All activity associated with the schools' related area based grants is ceased as from 31 March 2011, and a small school improvement team is maintained to provide quality assurance to the authority (paragraph 48 of the Cabinet Report - Council Organisation: Future Shape and Direction). This would deliver an immediate full year saving of £2.05m in 2011/12 onwards.

### **Suspension of Council Procedure Rule 22**

The Chairman drew Members of the Cabinets attention to the time and proposed an extension to the meeting of up to one hour. The proposal was seconded and it was noted that 6 Cabinet Members voted to extend the meeting whilst Cllr Brown voted against. Following the vote it was:

#### **RESOLVED:**

THAT the meeting be extended for up to one hour.

- xii. Discussions continue with schools regarding services they may choose to purchase or wish in partnership with the local authority, provided the cost of such support is not subsidised and therefore will have a nil effect on the Council's budget.
- xiii. The capital programme for the rebuild of the fire stations in Newport and Ventnor is put on hold until such time as the revenue costs can be met with a saving of £220,000 in 2011/12 and £500,000 in 2012/13 (paragraph 31 of the Cabinet Report - Council Organisation: Future Shape and Direction).
- xiv. Subject to a forthcoming Cabinet Member delegated decision, consultation and active discussion takes place with town and parish councils, local communities and businesses regarding the future management of public toilets, with a potential saving of £100,000 in 2011/12 and £250,000 in a full year (2012/13) (paragraph 33 of the Cabinet Report - Council Organisation: Future Shape and Direction). The delegated decision on consultation to commence as soon as is practical after this meeting and will inform a further Cabinet



Member delegated decision on the proposals.

- xv. Annual savings of £200,000 will be delivered in relation to the maintenance of parks and gardens, and town and parish councils will be invited to bring forward ideas and suggestions for how these public amenities could be maintained in the longer-term.
- xvi. Continuing work is undertaken to establish a joint approach to commissioning with the IOWNHS and GPs and that the provider services within the Council are separated from commissioning activity so that the Council ceases to be a direct provider of care services no later than 1 April 2012 (paragraph 40 of the Cabinet Report - Council Organisation: Future Shape and Direction). This, along with the proposals to adjust the application of the eligibility criteria and introduce changes to the charging policy, will – subject to forthcoming decisions – deliver a saving of £3.1m in 2011/12 and £5.2m in a full year (2012/13).
- xvii. Subject to a forthcoming Cabinet Member delegated decision, consultation is undertaken on the proposed changes to the library service to achieve a saving of £763,000 in 2011/12 and £833,000 in a full year (2012/13) (paragraph 43 of the Cabinet Report - Council Organisation: Future Shape and Direction). The consultation to commence as soon as is practical after this meeting and will inform a further Cabinet Member delegated decision on the proposals.
- xviii. Further work is done on the Museum and Heritage Service to identify ways in which savings can be made whilst seeking alternative providers for Ventnor Botanical Gardens, Dinosaur Isle and Newport Roman Villa (paragraphs 43 and 44 of the Cabinet Report - Council Organisation: Future Shape and Direction), which would deliver a combined potential saving of £132,000 in 2011/12 and £525,000 in a full year (2012/13).
- xix. Charges are introduced for passengers on the chain ferry and this revenue is used to fund the costs of the revenue impact of the capital investment to replace the ferry in 2014 (paragraph 36 of the Cabinet Report - Council Organisation: Future Shape and Direction).
- xx. A revised Corporate Plan is brought to Cabinet in March 2011 which identifies the Council's priorities for the next two financial years.
- xxi. In view of the urgency, and that they will be the subject to separate Cabinet Member delegated decisions, call-in be disapplied to resolutions ix, xiv and xvii. Although it be noted that the subsequent Cabinet Member delegated decisions will not necessarily have call-in disapplied.

	It should be noted that each recommendation was debated and voted on, on an individual basis,
<b>Reason for the decision and corporate objective it aligns with</b>	To enable the Council to reduce its revenue expenditure by £25m over the next two financial years which in turn is set within the required overall saving of £32m to be achieved by 2014/15.  To align with the following corporate themes: <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>	To reject part or all of the recommendations outlined within the report.
<b>Declarations of Interests</b>	None declared

<b>Agenda item</b>	<a href="#"><u>Quarterly Performance &amp; Strategic Risk Management report</u></a>
<b>Decision reference</b>	<b>53 (10/11)</b>
<b>Summary of Discussion</b>	The Cabinet member presented to members a report which provided an update on the council's performance and strategic risks for the second quarter of 2010/11 ending 30 September 2010.
<b>Issues Raised by Other Members</b>	No issues were raised
<b>Decision taken</b>	<p>i. THAT the performance of the Temporary Exclusions indicator be monitored through quarter three with an update on progress to be included in the quarter three Performance and Risk report due to be presented to Cabinet on 1 March 2011.</p> <p>ii. THAT an update be included in the quarter three Performance and Risk report of progress of performance in children's social care and the impact of the full recruitment of social workers has had on this performance</p>
<b>Reason for the decision and corporate objective it aligns with</b>	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.  To align with the following Corporate themes: <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>	Option 3 – to adjust and agree Options 1 and 2.
<b>Declarations of</b>	None declared.

<b>Interests</b>	
<b>Agenda items</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ofsted Inspection Action Plan – November 2010</b></li> <li>• <b>Adult Social Care Performance Assessment 2009/10</b></li> <li>• <b>Consideration of the Forward Plan</b></li> <li>• <b>Delegated Decisions</b></li> <li>• <b>Members Question Time</b></li> </ul>
<b>Decision reference</b>	<b>54 (10/11)</b>
<b>Summary of Discussion</b>	It was noted that due to time constraints, agenda items 6 to 10 should be deferred to the next meeting of Cabinet to be held on Monday, 24 January 2011.
<b>Decision taken</b>	THAT agenda items 6 to 10 be deferred to the next meeting of Cabinet to be held on Monday, 24 January 2011