



Record of decision

THE FOLLOWING DECISIONS WERE TAKEN BY THE CABINET ON THURSDAY, 14 FEBRUARY 2019

THE CALL IN PERIOD FOR THESE DECISIONS EXPIRES AT 5.00 PM ON MONDAY, 25 FEBRUARY 2019

Members of the Cabinet who were present

Cllrs Dave Stewart (Chairman), Barry Abraham, Paul Brading, John Hobart, Stuart Hutchinson, Clare Mosdell, Michael Murwill, Tig Outlaw, Ian Ward, Wayne Whittle

Members also present (non-voting)

Cllrs Andrew Garratt, Steve Hastings, Gary Peace, Brian Tyndall

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

Agenda item	<u>Minutes</u>
Decision reference	60 (18/19)
Decision Taken	That the minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2019 be agreed.
Questions / Amendments	None.

Agenda item	<u>Declarations of Interest</u>
Decision reference	61 (18/19)
	None declared.

Agenda item	<u>Public Question Time</u>
Decision reference	62 (18/19)
Public Question Time	<p>A written question was submitted by Stephen Cockett relating to funding for a public consultation in relation to Undercliff Drive. The Chairman confirmed that a written response would be provided.(PQ06/19)</p> <p>An oral question was asked by Lorraine Phillips relating to the tendering process for the advice centre and received a response from Cllr Mosdell and Cllr Murwill.</p> <p>A supplementary question was asked regarding whether the Council would save the Law Centre as it had done with Citizens Advice. The Chairman advised that the matter of the Law Centre was being dealt with as a separate item on the Agenda.</p>

Agenda item	<u>Chairman's Announcements</u>
Decision reference	63 (18/19)
Chairman's Announcements	<p>The Chairman advised that he had provided the following update at the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 12 February 2019;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The work being undertaken within the Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton and Isle of Wight area on the implications of Brexit was noted and the Leader would keep full Council informed. b) Work was continuing on the development of the 2019-20 budget which indicated that savings of £4.5m would be required in each of the next 2 - 3 years. c) The latest figures in relation to the operation of Cowes floating Bridge were supplied. d) The Solent Local Enterprise Council would be producing a local industrial strategy and this would feature marine and digital business.

Agenda item	<u>Review of the Law Centre Information Advice and Guidance Commissioning</u>
Decision reference	64 (18/19)
Summary of Discussion	<p>The Cabinet Member for Resources presented the report on the review of the funding to the Law Centre and the related procurement process to enable a way forward to be agreed to secure a contract for the provision of information, advice and guidance (IAG) services.</p> <p>The Chairman confirmed that the Council had committed £1.1 million over the next three years to support the advice centres.</p> <p>The procurement process would have to reflect the Council's requirements from the £1.1 million and that the provider would not be decided until the merits of each had been evaluated. It would have to give the level of service that residents would expect. It was confirmed that the process would not be changed to favour any particular contractor.</p>
Decision taken	THAT the Isle of Wight Council continues with the procurement process for integrated IAG services in accordance with the tender specification shown in Appendix A.
Reason for the decision and corporate objective it aligns with	To align with one of the key activities in the Corporate Plan 2017 – 2020, namely; Wellbeing, including community safety, island resilience, and that the needs of the community are being met by the best public services possible, while balancing the need for a financially balanced and sustainable council, engaging with partners to maximise integrated working, being sensitive to local needs and concerns, putting our customers and community at the heart as well as being efficient and effective in everything we do and spending money wisely.
Options considered and rejected	<p>Option 2: Cease the current procurement process, revisit and instigate a new procurement process to make provision for three separate service provisions within the tender specification, namely that of core IAG services; housing advice and court advocacy/legal representation.</p> <p>Option 3: Cease the current procurement process for these services, revisit and instigate two new procurement processes, one for housing advice, court desk and legal representation, and another for the core IAG services.</p> <p>Option 4: Cease the current procurement process, revisit and instigate a new procurement process for the provision of core IAG services and utilise the grant funding option open to the council for housing advice, court desk advocacy and legal representation.</p>

	Option 5: Cease the current procurement process and remain with the current arrangements in place.
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Agenda Item	<u>Budget & Council Tax Setting 2019/20 & Future Years' Forecasts</u>
Decision Reference	65 (18/19)
Summary of Discussion	<p>It was reported that the Scrutiny Committee had examined the report in detail and that it had welcomed the early publication of the budget proposals which had enabled more direct engagement with the public and Town & Parish Councils.</p> <p>The Chairman highlighted the need to make savings of £4.5 million for each of the next 2-3 years.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Resources reported that it was a thorough proposal and thanked finance officers for their hard work on this over the several months. Cabinet had taken the decision to prepare the budget earlier and announce options to give the opportunity for people to make representation. Any received had been considered and modifications had been made to take account of those whilst still making sure the budget is still legal and balanced.</p> <p>The savings identified, if approved, would mean the Council had saved over £80 million in last 8 years. Where services had been modified funding had been put in place to protect the vulnerable such as Hardship Fund. The Council had used commercialisation process to bring in additional cash to support services.</p> <p>Members were keen to protect frontline services. Some non-statutory services such as early intervention teams which had been rated good by Ofsted, wanted to keep. They had managed to make savings by restructure in management and unfilled posts and minor tweaking, resulting in no impact to the frontline service.</p> <p>The Chairman reported that in the original options paper from October there were options relating to parking. Several petitions had been received and this had been considered in the budget proposals.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Transport and Infrastructure stated that there would be a parking review to look at all charges and permits to better meet the needs of the public.</p> <p>There was a desire to be fair and equitable, and the use of modern technology, signage etc would be considered to enable it to work for the community.</p>

	<p>Members were pleased to see that the proposed increase in Wightcare charges had been removed from the budget, although it would need to be reviewed so that the service could be better used in the community.</p> <p>The budget had identified 36% of income generation. The Council is looking to gain social value from what it provides but also adopting a more commercial approach. There are efficiency savings without damage to frontline services.</p>
Decision taken	<p>(i) To recommend that Full Council approve the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The revised Revenue Budget for the financial year 2018/19 and the Revenue Budget for the financial year 2019/20 as set out in the General Fund Summary (Appendix A) (b) Any further savings made in 2018/19 arising at the year-end (after allowing for specific carry forward requests) be transferred to the Transformation Reserve, Revenue Reserve for Capital (to increase the Capital Resources available) and General Reserves (to improve overall financial resilience) with the level of each transfer to be determined by the S.151 Officer (c) The S.151 be given delegated authority to enter into the Solent¹ 75% Business Rates Retention Pilot agreement with the Department for Communities and Local Government (d) That the level of Council Tax be increased by 2.99% for general purposes in accordance with the referendum threshold² for 2019/20 announced by Government (as calculated in Appendix B) (e) That the amounts set out in Appendix B be now calculated by the Council for the financial year 2019/20 in accordance with Section 31 and Sections 34 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (f) The S.151 Officer be given delegated authority to implement any variation to the overall level of Council Tax arising from the final notification of the Hampshire Police & Crime Commissioner and Parish and Town Council precepts and amend the calculations set out in Appendix B accordingly (g) The Council Tax Care Leavers Discount Scheme as set out in Appendix I be implemented by way of a write off under

¹ Includes Isle of Wight Council, Portsmouth City Council and Southampton City Council

² Council Tax increases beyond the referendum threshold can only be implemented following a "Yes" vote in a local referendum

the delegated authority of the S.151 Officer and be incorporated into the Council's Financial Regulations

- (h) The savings proposals for each Portfolio amounting, in total, to £5.5m for 2019/20 and continuing into future years as set out below:

Portfolio / Service	Controllable Budget	Savings Proposal	
	£	£	%
Adult Social Care, Public Health & Housing Needs*	66,717,800	2,070,500	3.1%
Children's Services*	24,443,400	515,500	2.1%
Community Safety & Public Protection	10,993,000	275,000	2.5%
Environment & Heritage	11,244,000	274,400	2.4%
Infrastructure & Transport**	18,317,500	1,205,600	6.6%
Leader & Strategic Partnerships	457,300	0	0.0%
Planning & Housing Renewal	2,609,300	79,700	3.1%
Procurement, Projects, Forward Planning & Waste	5,793,300	130,000	2.2%
Regeneration & Business Development	1,394,200	33,000	2.4%
Resources	17,262,900	916,300	5.3%
Grand Total	159,232,700	5,500,000	3.5%

* Excludes the additional funding passported through to Adult Social Care of £1.4m (which if included would result in an overall reduction of 1%) and the additional funding for Children's Services of £0.7m (which if included would result in an overall increase of 0.7%)

** Excludes £19.4m of PFI Grant funding, on a Gross expenditure basis the saving amounts to 3.2%

- (i) Directors be instructed to start planning how the Council will achieve the savings requirements of £13.5m for the 3-year period 2020/21 to 2022/23 and that this be incorporated into Service Business Plans
- (j) The minimum level of Revenue Balances as at 31 March 2020 be set at £7.0m to reflect the known and expected budget and financial risks to the Council
- (k) Members have regard for the Statement of the Section 151 Officer in accordance with the Local Government Act 2003 as set out in paragraphs 134 to 153

- (l) The Capital Programme 2018/19 to 2023/24 set out in Appendix E which includes all additions, deletions and amendments for slippage and re-phasing
- (m) The new Capital Investment Proposals ("New Starts") - 2019/20 set out in Appendix D be reflected within the recommended Capital Programme 2018/19 to 2023/24 and be funded from the available Capital Resources
- (n) The allocation of £1,855,697 of Disabled Facilities Grants be made to the Better Care Fund, and reflected within the recommended Capital Programme 2018/19 to 2023/24
- (o) The following revenue contributions to capital be made in order to fund the proposed new Capital Investment Proposals ("New Starts") - 2019/20 set out in Appendix D:
 - (i) A £3m revenue contribution proposed as part of the proposals for the Revised Budget 2018/19
 - (ii) The originally planned £1m contribution from the Revenue Budget 2019/20, which was built into the previous budget forecast
 - (iii) A further £1m revenue contribution as part of the proposals for the Budget 2019/20 and arising from the direct additional funding received from the 75% BRR pilot
- (p) That Prudential Borrowing of up to £25m for Regeneration schemes that prove themselves to be robust and viable be approved in principle; with final approval to borrow being delegated to the S.151 Officer following the completion of a satisfactory final business case and financial appraisal that demonstrates with good certainty that savings will accrue directly to the Council that at least cover the cost of borrowing on a sustained basis over the lifetime of any borrowing.
- (q) The S.151 Officer be given delegated authority to determine how each source of finance is used to fund the overall Capital Programme and to alter the overall mix of financing, as necessary, to maximise the flexibility of capital resources used and minimise the ongoing costs of borrowing to the Council
- (r) That the S.151 Officer in consultation with the Leader of the Council be given delegated authority to release capital resources held back for any contingent items that might arise, and also for any match funding requirements that may be required of the Council in order to secure additional external capital funding (e.g. bids for funding from Government or the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership)

(ii) THAT it is recommended that the Council note the following in respect of the Council's Budget:

- (a) The Revenue Budget 2019/20 as set out in Appendix A has been prepared on the basis of a 2.99% increase in Council Tax, any reduction from the overall 2.99% Council Tax increase proposed will require additional savings of £830,800 for each 1% reduction in order for the Budget 2019/20 to be approved
- (b) The Revenue Forecasts for 2020/21 onwards as set out in the section entitled "Revenue Forecasts 2020/21 to 2022/23" and Appendix A
- (c) The estimated Savings Requirement of £13.5m for the three-year period 2020/21 to 2022/23, for financial and service planning purposes, be phased as follows:

Financial Year	In Year Savings Requirement £m	Cumulative Saving £m
2020/21	4.5	4.5
2021/22	4.5	9.0
2022/23	4.5	13.5

- (d) The Transformation Reserve held to fund the upfront costs associated with Spend to Save Schemes and Invest to Save Schemes holds a very modest uncommitted balance of £1.8m and will only be replenished from contributions from the Revenue Budget and an approval to the transfer of any further savings at year end
- (e) The Council Tax base for the financial year 2019/20 will be 53,508.0 [item T in the formula in Section 31 B(1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")].
- (f) The Council Tax element of the Collection Fund for 2018/19 is estimated to be a surplus of £333,000 which is shared between the Isle of Wight Council (90.2%) and the Police & Crime Commissioner (9.8%)
- (g) The Business Rate element of the Collection Fund for 2018/19 is estimated to be a deficit of £500,000
- (h) The Retained Business Rate income³ for 2019/20 based on the estimated Business Rate element of the Collection Fund deficit as at March 2019, the Non-Domestic Rates

³ Includes transfer to the "Growth Pool" of £2.0m and transfer from the "Growth Pool" of £1.0m plus the "Top Up" of £7.7m, S.31 Grants of £6.0m and a collection fund deficit of £0.5m

	poundage for 2019/20 and estimated rateable values for 2019/20 has been set at £41,480,492
Reason for decision and corporate objective it aligns with	The Council's Budget for 2018/19 and 2019/20, the level of Council Tax and the Capital Programme 2018/19 to 2023/24 represent the Council's detailed plan for 2019/20 and set the direction for the medium term. They are set within the context of the Council's approved Corporate Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy.
Options considered and rejected	In respect of the Revenue Budget 2019/20 Options A ii) to vi) In respect of the Capital Programme 2018/19 to 2023/24 Options B ii) and iii)

Agenda Item	Consideration of the Forward Plan
Decision Reference	66 (18/19)
Summary of Discussion	The current forward plan discussed, and it was advised that items on the plan were on schedule to be delivered on time.

Agenda Item	<u>Members' Question Time</u>
Decision Reference	67 (18/19)
Members' Questions	<p>A question was asked by Cllr Andrew Garrett relating to the proposed works at St Mary's Roundabout, in particular the start and finish dates and what information would be given, and engagement carried out with the general public. (MQ03/19)</p> <p>The Cabinet member for Transport and Infrastructure confirmed that the works had been postponed due to the work currently being carried out in Staplers Road, but that it should start in the autumn and the Council would be re-engaging with community.</p> <p>Cllr Garratt asked a supplementary question as the local member for Parkhurst, he offered to start next month the information and engagement but would discuss separately outside of the meeting. The Cabinet member for Transport and Infrastructure would speak to officers about starting early.</p>

A verbal question was asked by Cllr Tyndall. When the incinerator is up and running are there any plans to mine the existing landfill site as this may provide free fuel for the incinerator or other recoverable materials. When were the proposed start and end dates and what would happen to the site when cleared?

The Cabinet Member for Waste said they had started to look at old sites as landfill sites have potential value, but some also have dangerous products. There is no time frame. The priority is to ensure Forest Park gets up and running but it can be considered after that, as there could be some opportunities. IWC doesn't own Lynbottom tip.

The Leader confirmed that in his report to Full Council he would be referring to the current progress with the Waste Plant and complimented the officers involved. He confirmed that the IWC is above the national targets for recycling.