



# Minutes

Name of meeting	<b>FULL COUNCIL</b>
Date and time	<b>WEDNESDAY, 20 JULY 2011 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM</b>
Venue	<b>COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT</b>
Present	Cllrs David Williams (Chairman), Barry Abraham, Jonathan Bacon, Reg Barry, Peter Bingham, George Brown, George Cameron, Vanessa Churchman, Roger Dixcey, Rodney Downer, Stuart Dyer, Paul Fuller, Edward Giles, John Hobart, Richard Hollis, John Howe, Heather Humby, Tim Hunter-Henderson, Julie Jones-Evans, Patrick Joyce, David Knowles, Roger Mazillius, Lora Peacey-Wilcox, David Pugh, Colin Richards, Susan Scoccia, David Stewart, Andy Sutton, Arthur Taylor, Ian Ward, Ivor Warlow, Margaret Webster, Chris Welsford, Jerry White, Wayne Whittle
Apologies	Cllrs Dawn Cousins, Geoff Lumley, Ian Stephens, Gary Taylor, David Whittaker

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21. [Minutes](#)

**RESOLVED :**

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on [15 June 2011](#) be confirmed.

22. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations received at this stage.

23. [Public Question Time](#)

Questions were put to the Chairman as follows :

<b>Name</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Mr Chris Whitehouse, Totland	Mr Whitehouse was not in attendance to ask his question in relation to school transport.	The Cabinet Member provided a written response which was available on the following link ( <a href="#">PQ 15/11</a> )

<b>Name</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Mr John McGuirk, Totland	Mr John McGuirk was not in attendance to ask his question in relation to school transport.	The Cabinet Member provided a written response which was available on the following link ( <a href="#">PQ 16/11</a> )
Mr James Carroll, Ryde	Mr James Carroll was not in attendance to ask his question in relation to school transport.	The Cabinet Member provided a written response which was available on the following link ( <a href="#">PQ 17/11</a> )
Mrs Anni Whitehouse Totland	Mrs Anni Whitehouse was not in attendance to ask her question in relation to school transport.	The Cabinet Member provided a written response which was available on the following link ( <a href="#">PQ 18/11</a> )
Mrs Karen Carroll, Ryde	Mrs Karen Carroll was not in attendance to ask her question in relation to school transport.	The Cabinet Member provided a written response which was available on the following link ( <a href="#">PQ 19/11</a> )
Mr Adrian Nicholas	Asked a question in relation to the Fire Control Centre moving to Surrey particularly in light of the latest grant offer from Central Government.	The Cabinet Member advised that Cabinet had considered Cllr Lumley's motion moved at the last meeting and had made its recommendation to Council on that motion. There was a need to understand what the Government offered in terms of their money to upgrade Fire Control Centres. There was a clear need for Local Authorities to put forward a business case to central government setting out how they would use such money, if awarded, to improve the resilience and efficiency of the service.
	A supplementary asking if Council would defer the Cabinet recommendation to allow for public debate.	The Cabinet Member indicated he would not defer the decision.
Mr Paul Watts	Asked if the transfer of the Fire Control Centre to Surrey could be suspended.	The Cabinet Member indicated it would not be suspended.

Name	Subject	Comment
Mr Simon Haytach	It appeared concern about the move was being ignored, why?	The Cabinet Member indicated he had taken advice from the Chief Fire Officer. The FBU, locally, had been consulted all the way through.
	How could we be assured that an informed decision was being made if not seen the equipment before a decision was taken,	The Cabinet Member advised that the Council had experts and he had taken advise from them. He had visited Surrey and was happy with advice he had been given.

24. **Chairman's Report**

A [written report](#) had been circulated for information. The Chairman thanked all the volunteers who had worked hard throughout the week of the Island Games and had helped to make it a success.

25. **Report from the Council's Returning Officer**

The Strategic Director of Economy and Environment reported on behalf of the Council's Returning Officer. The vacant Binstead and Fishbourne seat of the Isle of Wight Council had been filled by Ivor Warlow, an Independent, following a by-election held on 23 June 2011. The turnout was 42%. The Chairman welcomed Councillor Ivor Warlow to his first Full Council meeting.

26. **To consider business adjourned from the last meeting of the Council**

A motion had been previously submitted under Procedure Rule 16 (1) of the Council's Constitution and signed by 12 councillors. The following motion was subsequently moved by Councillor Geoff Lumley.

Council resolves, in the light of increasing public concern, to reverse the 2011 Budget decision and subsequent delegated decision (15/11) to transfer the Isle of Wight Fire Control service to Surrey Fire and Rescue Service. Further it agrees that any future alternative provision of this service must be Island based.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 11 the motion was adjourned at the last Council meeting and considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 21 June 2011. Cabinet made the following recommendation :

To recommend to Council to vote against the motion to recommend Cabinet to reverse the decision to merge fire control with Surrey and therefore to affirm the Cabinet decision to merge fire control with Surrey and furthermore that the report to the cabinet of Tuesday, 21 June 2011 and the delegated decision of 3 May 2011 previously considered be

included in the papers for the council meeting to which this recommendation returns.

There being no seconder the motion fell.

27. **[Annual Fire and Rescue Report](#)**

The Cabinet member for Fire, Culture and Residents' Services paid tribute to Mr Paul Street, Chief Fire Officer, who was soon to be retiring.

The report emphasised the key benefits of modernisation and noted there had been changes in the staffing arrangements to ensure more full time cover. The Council had invested in new fire fighting equipment, which included new vehicles, kit for fire fighters and radio equipment. The fire service had received 1,762 emergency calls during 2010/11.

The Government had intended to establish regional control centres, which had subsequently been abandoned, thereby causing problems for fire services around the country. A separate decision had been made to combine the Isle of Wight Fire Control Centre with Surrey's by the end of 2011.

**RESOLVED :**

THAT the report be noted.

28. **Reports of the Cabinet Members**

(i) **The Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources ([Recording 1](#) & [2](#))**

A [written report](#) had been circulated for information.

The Leader asked for and was given an extension of up to 10 minutes to enable an update on faith and post-16 transport to be given. It was noted that if a pupil was entitled to receive free home-to-school transport to a school in Newport (as their catchment area school) by virtue of where they lived, that such an entitlement should be transferable to another school in Newport – whether that be Medina, Carisbrooke or Christ the King College.

There was an intention to agree an increase in the charge for a termly pass from £27.50 to £50, with effect from September 2011. It was also agreed with the College that further work be undertaken to explore how the recently announced 16-19 Bursary Fund could possibly be used, alongside local authority resources, to help fund the travel needs of those in greatest need. The new fund was being introduced from September 2011.

Written questions were put as follows :

<b>Name</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Cllr Wayne Whittle	How the Council's contribution to the PFI	The Leader had provided a written response which

<b>Name</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Comment</b>
	would be funded if the government implemented the NNDR proposals?	was available on the following link ( <a href="#">MQ 10/11</a> )
Cllr Jonathan Bacon	Asked a question as to the current changes to the Library service on the Island, given the legal challenge underway in the High Court?	The Leader had provided a written response which was available on the following link ( <a href="#">MQ 12/11</a> )
	A supplementary asking for the anticipated cost in legal action?	The Leader advised that he did not have the anticipated or projected cost.
Cllr David Knowles	Asked a question relating to A.E.T having been given a 125 year lease on Sandown and Ryde High Schools?	The Leader had provided a written response which was available on the following link ( <a href="#">MQ 13/11</a> )

Oral questions were put to the Leader as follows :

<b>Name</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Cllr John Howe	School transport – If someone living within a three miles radius was not entitled to free travel but decided to attend Christ the King, would they be able to claim free transport?	The Leader advised that the entitlement to free transport would only be triggered if the catchment area school was three or more miles from where a student lived. If a student lived within three miles of their catchment school they would not be entitled to free transport to another school.

(ii) **[Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Housing and Community Safety](#)**

A [written report](#) had been circulated for information. The Cabinet Member advised that he had recently been to London twice with regard to the Dilnot report. He had suggested that at an appropriate time it would be useful to hold an all Island conference based on the recommendations of the Dilnot report.

An oral question was put to the Cabinet Member as follows :

<b>Name</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Cllr Lora Peacey-Wilcox	What did discounted sale affordable housing mean?	The Cabinet Member advised it helped people get on the housing ladder.
Cllr John Howe	Were facilities with regard to respite care being passed to care homes?	The Cabinet Member advised that nothing would be done without the fullest public consultation.

(iii) **[The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for the Economy and the Environment](#)**

A [written report](#) had been circulated for information. The Cabinet Member reported that the Secretary of State had decided against applications to him for determining the matter of applications from both the New Forest District Council and New Forest Parks Authority with regard to the Yarmouth to Lymington ferry. He indicated that it should be determined locally.

A written question was put as follows :

<b>Name</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Cllr Wayne Whittle	Whether the Cabinet Member was considering introducing a strategy to protect the Island's tourism economy in the light of the Government's proposals to abolish the planning 'change of use' requirements.	The Cabinet Member had provided a written response which was available on the following link ( <a href="#">MQ 11/11</a> )

An oral question was put to the Cabinet Member as follows :

<b>Name</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Cllr Lora Peacey-Wilcox	Had the bid for investment in tourist accommodation on the island been submitted and was this internal or external?	The Cabinet Member advised it was to do with improvement, but would respond in writing.

(iv) **[Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Education](#)**

A [written report](#) had been circulated for information.

An oral question was put as follows :

<b>Name</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Cllr Vanessa Churchman	The government had recently made provision for solar panels, was there grant funding available and had it been taken into account on new builds.	The Leader advised that in relation to the new build for Haylands primary school, he was aware that there were proposals to make it as environmentally friendly as possible. He would investigate as to whether there was may be grant funding available

(v) **Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Waste**

A [written report](#) had been circulated for information. The Cabinet Member indicated confirmation had been received that grant funding from SUSTRANS for the cross town cycle route had been approved.

Oral questions were put to the Cabinet Member as follows :

<b>Name</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Cllr Vanessa Churchman	Volunteer drivers for the community bus could not be found in Shanklin	The Cabinet Member advised that Southern Vectis may be able to provide drivers initially.
Cllr John Howe	What was the position of the generating plant in the waste disposal area?	The Cabinet Member indicated that the gasification plant had been working better and was currently within budget.
Cllr Julie Jones-Evans	Waste collection service – not all areas would be suitable for wheelie bins	The Cabinet Member advised that if found not to be suitable clear plastic bags would be provided.
Cllr Colin Richards	What was being done to get motorists though Newport?	The Cabinet Member indicated that was covered in the Local Transport Plan, which encouraged the use of a bus or bicycle as alternative means of transport. He was keen to see improvements but only when S.106 money was available.

(vi) **Cabinet Member for Fire, Culture and Residents' Services**

A [written report](#) had been circulated for information.

Oral questions were put to the Cabinet Member as follows :

<b>Name</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Cllr Andy Sutton	Had the Lead Member for Fire any plans to bid for the monies from the Government to improve modernisation and resilience?	The Cabinet member indicated there were plans to bid for a proportion of the money to recover some of the costs with regard to the proposed merger with Surrey. A bid would also be made for an incident room which would improve resilience for the Isle of Wight.
Cllr David Knowles	Parking services had issued correspondence re penalty charges, was that fines, could you clarify	The Cabinet Member advised that it was an operational issue and he would provide a written response.
Cllr Julie Jones-Evans	Are members able to visit the shared services area at Westridge?	The Cabinet Member advised that they would be welcome to visit at any time.
Cllr David Knowles	There had been some problems with the time it took for the phone to be answered. It was suggested that there may be a need to increase the number of staff at peak periods.	The Cabinet Member asked that if members were having problems they should contact him and let him know.

(vii) **Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

A [written report](#) had been circulated for information.