



Minutes

Name of meeting	FULL COUNCIL
Date and time	WEDNESDAY, 21 MARCH COMMENCING AT 6:00 PM
Venue	COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs Lora Peacey-Wilcox (Chairman), Barry Abraham, Debbie Andre, Adrian Axford, Reg Barry, Paul Bertie, Michael Beston, Paul Brading, Geoff Brodie, George Cameron, Vanessa Churchman, Rodney Downer, Paul Fuller, Andrew Garratt, John Hobart, John Howe, Steve Hastings, Stuart Hutchinson, Julie Jones-Evans, John Kilpatrick, Michael Lilley, Karl Love, John Medland, Clare Mosdell, Michael Murwill, John Nicholson, Tig Outlaw, Gary Peace, Graham Perks, Matthew Price, Chris Quirk, Shirley Smart, Ian Stephens, Dave Stewart, Ian Ward, Chris Whitehouse, Wayne Whittle
Apologies	Cllrs Charles Chapman, Brian Tyndall , Julia Baker-Smith

65. **Minutes**

RESOLVED:

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on 28 February 2018 be confirmed.

66. **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Steve Hastings declared a personal interest as a former member of the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority.

67. **Public Question Time**

Questions were put to the Chairman as follows:

Name	Subject	Comment
Billy Hill, Ventnor	Traffic volume around school times in the Lowtherville Road area including Downlands Crescent.	The Cabinet Member advised a written response would be provided.

68. **Chairman's Official Announcements**

A written report had been circulated for information.

69. **Initial Business Case into the proposed creation of a new combined Fire Authority to include Hampshire, Southampton, Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight Authorities**

The Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Public Protection presented the report which set out an outline case for the construction of a detailed business case into the creation of a new Combined Fire Authority (CFA) for the area of Hampshire, Southampton, Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight and the process by which a decision regarding a CFA would be taken. Initial benefits of a combined authority included increased resilience and capacity operationally and organisationally, safer communities, efficiency in scale and reduction of duplication. The risk to retaining the status quo related to the Police and Crime Commissioner opting to take over the fire authority if sufficient strategic partnership working was not undertaken and also the expiry of the existing partnership in 18 months.

Members were advised that the following amendment to the second part of the recommendation, rather than what was detailed in the published report, would be proposed:

On the basis of the information contained within this report that officers complete a comprehensive business case, with a clear understanding of the day to day operational implications for the Island Fire Service. Once complete this business case be brought to Cabinet for review and followed by a minimum 12 week public consultation on the Isle of Wight so that the widest range of views on the advantages and disadvantages of joining a new combined fire authority can be considered.

Attention was drawn to the difference between this decision and the review of the fire and rescue service that had been undertaken.

The following amendment was moved by Councillor Stephens and duly seconded:

To maintain the existing strategic partnership with Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service and to delay any further work on the initial business case, pending the completion and the results of the extensive inspections that are planned to be undertaken by the home office.

Following the debate on the amendment, a named vote was taken the result of which was as follows:

For (12):

Cllrs Debbie Andre, Reg Barry, Geoff Brodie, Rodney Downer, Andrew Garratt, John Howe, Julie Jones-Evans, Michael Lilley, Karl Love, John Medland, Shirley Smart, Ian Stephens.

Against (23)

Cllrs Barry Abraham, Adrian Axford, Paul Bertie, Michael Beston, Paul Brading, George Cameron, Vanessa Churchman, Steve Hastings, John Hobart, Stuart Hutchinson, John Kilpatrick, Clare Mosdell, Michael Murwill, John Nicholson, Tig Outlaw, Gary Peace, Graham Perks, Matthew Price, Chris Quirk, Dave Stewart, Ian Ward, Chris Whitehouse, Wayne Whittle

Abstain (0)

The amendment fell.

Concerns were raised that the Island was being forced to hand power to Hampshire. There was also a view that this was such a significant decision that it should be taken by Full Council. However, clarification was provided that the final decision was an executive function and therefore required a decision of Cabinet. This notwithstanding there was a general view across the chamber that the opinion of full council should be sought before cabinet made its final decision.

A further amendment, the inclusion of "The final decision on the Isle of Wight will be taken by Full Council" to the revised second recommendation, was moved and duly seconded, however, the advice of officers was that the law prescribed this was an executive decision and therefore could only be taken by cabinet and therefore the proposed amendment could not be tabled and fell.

Members then discussed the original proposal. At the conclusion of the debate a vote was taken and the following was:

RESOLVED:

- (i) THAT the council accept the outline business case for the creation of a new combined fire authority and agree to the development of a full business case for the potential new authority covering the Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton and Isle of Wight area.
- (ii) On the basis of the information contained within this report that officers complete a comprehensive business case, with a clear understanding of the day to day operational implications for the Island Fire Service. Once complete this business case be brought to Cabinet for review and followed by a minimum 12 week public consultation on the Isle of Wight so that the widest range of views on the advantages and disadvantages of joining a new combined fire authority can be considered.

70. [Isle of Wight Electoral Review](#)

Members considered a report which presented the council's proposal that its size remain unchanged following the Local Government Boundary Commission initiating an electoral review on the Isle of Wight. Attention was drawn to the fact there were two stages of the review and that it was the second stage which would look at ward boundaries and the proposal being considered did not impact on these.

It was noted that while there were statutory requirements in relation to the size of a ward's electorate to ensure each vote carried the same weight, there were no requirements regarding the number of councillors in a ward. As a result Bembridge having two ward councillors could remain unchanged. At the conclusion of the debate a vote was taken.

RESOLVED:

THAT the proposal to retain the number of councillors at 40, as per the recommendation contained within the Isle of Wight Electoral Review Submission, Part One, in readiness for submission to the commission, be endorsed.

71. [Pay Policy](#)

Councillors Michael Lilley and Dave Stewart declared a personal interest as their spouses were employees of the Isle of Wight Council. It was confirmed they did not need to leave the room.

Consideration was given to the pay policy statement which, under the Localism Act 2011, must be approved by Full Council on an annual basis. There were very few changes to previous year's policy and that all changes were tracked and listed in the body of the report.

Members were advised an additional report, detailing gender pay gaps, would be required at the close of 2017/18. The analysis of pay data had found that in the lower quartile there was an over representation of females (70%), likely due to the number of part time posts, and 59% of those in the top quartile were also female. Further analysis was required and work would be done to neutralise the gap. The council appeared to be performing well in relation to neighbouring authorities.

RESOLVED:

THAT the updated pay policy statement for 2018/19 be adopted.

CHAIRMAN