

Minutes

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Name of meeting | FULL COUNCIL |
| Date and time | WEDNESDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER 2016 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM |
| Venue | COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT |
| Present | Cllrs Charles Chapman (Chairman), Jonathan Bacon, Julia Baker-Smith, Reg Barry, Paul Bertie, Bob Blezzard, Ray Bloomfield, Rodney Downer, Paul Fuller, Conrad Gauntlett, Luisa Hillard, John Hobart, Richard Hollis, John Howe, Julie Jones-Evans, Geoff Lumley, John Medland, Lora Peacey-Wilcox, Graham Perks, Daryll Pitcher, Matthew Price, Ian Stephens, Dave Stewart, Steve Stubbings, Ian Ward, Roger Whitby-Smith, Chris Whitehouse, Wayne Whittle |
| Apologies | Cllr David Eccles, Jonathan Gilbey, Alan Hollands, Stuart Hutchinson, Phil Jordan, Gordon Kendall, John Nicholson, Richard Priest, Colin Richards, Bob Seely, Shirley Smart, Ivor Warlow |

37. [Minutes](#)

RESOLVED :

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on [20 July 2016](#) be confirmed.

38. [Declarations of Interest](#)

Councillors Dave Stewart, Ray Bloomfield, Paul Fuller and Reg Barry declared a personal interest in minute 44 as their partners were affected.

Councillor Graham Perks declared an interest as he was a local business man in Ventnor.

39. [Public Question Time](#)

Questions were put to the Chairman as follows :

| Name | Subject | Comment |
|------------------------------|---|--|
| Christopher Quirk | Mr Quirk was not in attendance to ask his question | The Executive Member provided a written response which was available on the following link (<u>PQ 18/16</u>) |
| Stewart Blackmore of Ventnor | Asked a question in relation to the administration of the transport infrastructure task | The Executive Member disagreed. |

| Name | Subject | Comment |
|------------------------------|---|--|
| Stewart Blackmore of Ventnor | force which seemed to be a waste of public council resources, would the leader agree? Asked a supplementary question if Mr Garnett's conclusion was the removal of the Island from the franchise would the Council reject the recommendation under present policy. | The Leader advised that the Council would wait to see what the recommendations were. |

40. **Chairman's Report**

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

41. **Reports of the Executive Members**

(i) **The Leader and Executive Member for Resources, Organisational Change and Children's Services**

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

Written questions were put to the Leader as follows :

| Name | Subject | Comment |
|--------------|--|---|
| Cllr Stewart | What was the Leader's views about the Hampshire Local Authority Consultation? | The Leader provided a written response which was available on the following link (MQ 02/16) |
| Cllr Stewart | What engagement or communication had taken place with the Leader of Hampshire County Council regarding a. the Hampshire Local Authority consultation which involves options relating to the Isle of Wight, and b. the Isle of Wight Council's views on the Hampshire Local Authority consultation? | The Leader provided a written response which was available on the following link (MQ 02/16) |
| Cllr Stewart | What engagement or communication have you received from the Leader of Hampshire County Council regarding a) the Hampshire Local Authority Consultation which involves options relating the Isle of | The Leader provided a written response which was available on the following link (MQ 02/16) |

| Name | Subject | Comment |
|--------------|---|--|
| Cllr Stewart | <p>Wight and b) the Leader of Hampshire County Councils' views on the Isle of Wight Solent Deal Consultation?</p> <p>What undertakings, assurances or guarantees have been given about Government funding for the proposed Solent Combined Authority from the Government or from the Leaders of Southampton and Portsmouth Councils for the next a) year b) five years c) thirty years, and will you publish all notes and correspondence relating to this so members can be better informed before the October full council meeting?</p> | <p>The Leader provided a written response which was available on the following link (MQ 02/16)</p> |
| Cllr Stewart | <p>What functions will become the responsibility of the proposed Solent Combined Authority and what estimates have been made of the costs of those over the next a) year b) five years c) thirty years and will you publish all notes and correspondence relating to this so members can be better informed before the October full council meeting?</p> | <p>The Leader provided a written response which was available on the following link (MQ 02/16)</p> |
| Cllr Stewart | <p>What undertakings, assurances or guarantees have been given that funding for the proposed Solent Combined Authority will not affect future funding for the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership or any other source of growth funding currently available or under consideration from the Government or from the Leaders of Southampton and Portsmouth Councils for a) the Isle of Wight b)</p> | <p>The Leader provided a written response which was available on the following link (MQ 02/16)</p> |

| Name | Subject | Comment |
|--------------|---|---|
| | any other member of the combined authority and will you publish correspondence or notes relating to these matters so members can be better informed before the October full council meeting? | |
| Cllr Stewart | What impact the formation of the Solent Deal Combined Authority will have on future funding for the Island Roads PFI Contract which currently ensures our roads are upgraded and maintained for 25 years and will you confirm what undertakings, assurances or guarantees have been given by Government to this future funding and publish all notes and correspondence relating to this so members can be better informed before the October full council meeting? | The Leader provided a written response which was available on the following link (MQ 02/16) |

Oral questions were put to the Leader as follows :

| Name | Subject | Comment |
|---------------|--|---|
| Cllr Blezzard | Would you provide an update on the supreme court action against Mr Platt and the costs to the Local Authority? | The Leader advised that there had been no progress as the court was in legal recess until October 2016. The Department for Education had agreed to take on any costs the council would be liable for, the amount of which would be finalised at the end of the hearing. |
| Cllr Blezzard | Would the Leader reconsider the decision and withdraw the appeal? | The Leader explained that the reason for the appeal was to obtain clarification on the piece of law regarding term time holidays. Attendance at school was especially important on the Island |

| Name | Subject | Comment |
|-------------|--|--|
| Cllr Lumley | Can you explain why the letter provided by the Chief Executive of Hampshire County Council regarding devolution had only just been circulated to the rest of the Council | and levels of absences had dropped. The Leader advised that the letter dated 14 July 2016 had been received by the Isle of Wight Council in August 2016. |
| Cllr Lumley | Can you explain why you accepted an apology from Mr Hoare former Chair of OFSTED on behalf of the Isle of Wight and did you have the right to do that? | The Leader explained that as the Leader of the Council he spoke with Mr Hoare at which time he retracted his statement it was felt that to move swiftly on this was the best option and hoped to have a positive relationship with OFSTED in the future. |
| Cllr Lumley | As it was not a personal meeting, the meeting with OFSTED the previous week should have been opened up to all and the labour party's suggestion of a task group should have been raised | The Leader informed that the meeting was held on OFSTEDS grounds and that the suggestion of a task force was not off the agenda. |
| Cllr Hollis | The Promotional information regarding the Solent deal had a photograph of a business which no longer operated on the Island. Is it policy to provide out of date images and are you not failing in your duty to protect marine industry? | The Leader advised that it was not policy to supply out of date images and that the Solent deal may help to ensure marine industry stays on the Island. |

(ii) **[The Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Integration](#)**

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

(iii) **[Executive Member for Regeneration, Economic Sustainability and Development](#)**

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

Oral questions were put to the Executive Member as follows :

| Name | Subject | Comment |
|------------------|---|---|
| Cllr Jones-Evans | In June you advised that you would provide a written response regarding the economic development board minutes and assisted area status; I am still waiting for the response. | The Executive Member apologised and said the information would be sent. |
| Cllr Lumley | Has a review of the public private partnership for asset management on the Isle of Wight been undertaken and can you make sure all members are kept up to date on the review? | The Executive Member advised that a review was ongoing and assets were being explored although sometimes the process takes longer than hoped. |

(iv) **Executive Member for Planning and Housing**

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

Oral questions were put to the Executive Member as follows :

| Name | Subject | Comment |
|-----------------|---|---|
| Cllr Whitehouse | Can you provide an update on the policy regarding key workers housing in particular new teachers, it is vital that new housing projects are encouraged to make provision? | The Executive Member advised that the Housing and Planning Act restricted Local Authorities suggesting tenure types other than starter homes, there was also a review of the Housing strategy being undertaken. |
| Cllr Lumley | Would you agree some consideration to why we are approving up to 512 houses a year when the vast majority are unaffordable to Island people. This constant approval is not in the interest of people who live on the Island | The Executive Member directed Cllr Lumley to her previous answer and advised that the 2014/15 planning monitoring report gave the number of houses delivered on the Island and why there is a need for them. |
| Cllr Lumley | Members need to understand how the Council are providing affordable housing to local residents | The Executive Member outlined that a change in legislation had tied the hands of Local Authorities regarding affordable social housing although work had been undertaken with partner organisations and |

| Name | Subject | Comment |
|-------------|----------------|--|
| | | once that piece of work was completed an update would be provided. |

(v) **Executive Member for Environment (Sustainability) and Local Engagement**

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

Oral questions were put to the Executive Member as follows :

| Name | Subject | Comment |
|-------------------|---|--|
| Cllr Jones-Evans | Would you be willing to attend the 20mph conference? | The Executive Member said he was happy to attend if details were provided. |
| Cllr Whitby-Smith | Can you assure me that the costal pathways will not have free roaming rights across sites such as Barton Manor and Osborne House? | The Executive Member advised that initial discussion with Natural England confirmed that legislation would prohibit pathways through private land and the concern would be raised during the consultation. |
| Cllr Whitby-Smith | Can you make sure the Isle of Wight Council's view is put forward at the consultation? | The Executive Member confirmed it was engrained in legislation. |
| Cllr Hollis | The previous Executive Member backed the idea of Twizzy, what has happened? | The Executive Member confirmed that the company running the scheme had gone out of business due to the current financial climate. |

(vi) **Executive Member for Public Health, Public Protection and PFI**

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

Oral questions were put to the Executive Member as follows :

| Name | Subject | Comment |
|---------------|---|--|
| Cllr Blezzard | Can you confirm the number of Environmental Health and trading standards officers we have and any benchmarking as to the number other authorities employ? | In the absence of the Executive Member the Leader said a written response would be provided. |

| Name | Subject | Comment |
|------------------|--|--|
| Cllr Jones-Evans | When would the parking strategy be taken to the Executive as it didn't feature on the latest forward plan? | In the absence of the Executive Member the Leader advised that a written response would be provided. |

(vii) **[Executive Member for Public Transport, Tourism, Recreation and Heritage](#)**

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

42. **[Report of the Scrutiny Committee Chairman](#)**

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

Written questions were put to the Chairman as follows :

| Name | Subject | Comment |
|----------------|--|---|
| Cllr Stubbings | In his capacity as a group leader the Chair of Scrutiny has submitted a series of questions to Full Council asking for information about the consultation in relation to the Solent Deal. While also noting that these relate almost exclusively to material already in the public domain or already provided to members, I would like to ask why none of these questions were asked by the Chair of Scrutiny at the Scrutiny Committee meeting of Tuesday 6 September, at which Devolution was a specific agenda item. In addition it was noted at that meeting that Hampshire County Council had not sought the views of the Isle of Wight Council on its consultation relating to reorganisation and no recommendation was made in relation to whether this Council should respond. Why has the Chair of Scrutiny now changed his | The Chairman provided a written response which was available on the following link (MQ 03/16) |

| Name | Subject | Comment |
|-------------|---|----------------|
| | approach to this issue and in what way is it appropriate that these important issues were not raised at the Scrutiny Committee? | |

Oral questions were put to the Chairman as follows :

| Name | Subject | Comment |
|-----------------|---|--|
| Cllr Stubbings | The answer indicated that you had some knowledge of devolution and gave the impression that you had spoken with Portsmouth and Hampshire, would you agree with Cllr Whitehouse that devolution should be blocked? | The Chairman advised that all councils affected should be engaged with local residents and it was right and proper for scrutiny to look at this and have all the information available to them. |
| Cllr Barry | Since the new Police and Crime commissioner had been in post how many times had he visited the Island? | The Chairman believed 3 or 4 times to attend events, although he had been made aware that Cllr Jordan had raised similar issues and would raise the issues on behalf of the Isle of Wight Council. |
| Cllr Barry | As the chairman of the panel does it concern you? | The Chairman explained that the Police Crime Commissioner had only been in post a few months. |
| Cllr Whitehouse | The consultation on the Solent deal had withheld key information which made it unreasonable; would the Scrutiny Committee consider requesting a re-consultation of the deal with all the facts available? | The chairman advised that it was important for Scrutiny to consider all the facts and encouraged members to look at the Hampshire consultation. |

43. **Motions submitted under Procedure Rule 10 of the Council's Constitution**

(a) [By Councillor Geoff Lumley](#)

Given the significant impact on a number of Island residents the Council calls upon the Government to make fair transitional state pension arrangements for all women born on or after 6th April 1951,

who have unfairly borne the burden of the increase to the State Pension Age (SPA) with lack of appropriate notification.

At the conclusion of the debate a named vote was taken the result of which was as follows:

For (23)

Councillors Jonathan Bacon, Julia Baker-Smith, Reg Barry,
Paul Bertie, Charles Chapman, Rodney Downer, Paul Fuller,
Conrad Gauntlett, Luisa Hillard, John Hobart, Richard Hollis,
John Howe, Geoff Lumley, John Medland, Lora Peacey-Wilcox,
Graham Perks, Daryll Pitcher, Matthew Price, Ian Stephens,
Steve Stubbings, Ian Ward, Roger Whitby-Smith, Wayne Whittle

Against (0)

Abstention (0)

RESOLVED :

THAT given the significant impact on a number of Island residents the Council calls upon the Government to make fair transitional state pension arrangements for all women born on or after 6th April 1951, who have unfairly borne the burden of the increase to the State Pension Age (SPA) with lack of appropriate notification.

44. Motions submitted under the requisition for this meeting

(a) [By Councillor Dave Stewart](#)

Councillor Dave Stewart withdrew his motion.

CHAIRMAN